

# Revisioning the Library

7th - 8th February 2007

An trans-disciplinary masters workshop in RFID

The RFID workshop over two days was a chance to speculate on the future of the library. The library is undergoing self-reflection on the relation between its physical and electronic resources, spaces and systems. The starting point for rethinking these relations was to introduce technologies that can store and transmit data, and to begin to imagine scenarios where the physical and digital objects collapse

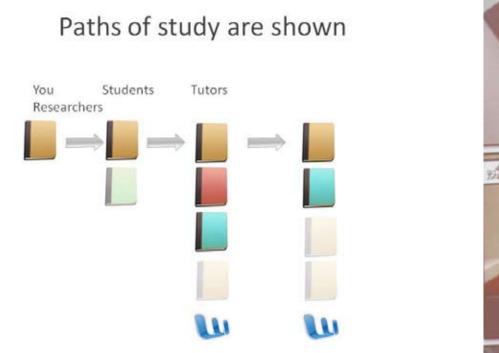
Francis Hunger, 'How I Learned to Love RFID', HWKV 2006, http://www.hmkv.de/dyn/e\_program\_ events/detail.php?nr=1239As many other technologies, which are basically used in the civilsector, the British Royal Airforceused "tags" on their planes to decide whether it was a "friend or foe" signal that was reflected by radio waves, used in radar technology.1RFID uses a similar basic concept. A radio wave is sent to atransponder – more commonly called "RFID tag" – which then wakesup, consu the energy of the initial radio wave and sends back datato the sender/receiver unit. Through the 1950s They could be set either on or off and would signal ifa person has paid and the cashier did subsequently deactivated thetag. So the theft alarm devices that are positioned on each entrance/exit of shops are very basic RFID readers. In the 1970s severalpatents for RFID applications where issued and passive











Bruce Sterling, 'The Internet of Things: What is a Spime and Why is itUseful?', http://video.google.com/ videoplay?docid=-3857739359956666768 In the future we may be able to find lost keys with a simple googlesearch. Science fiction writer Bruce Sterling imagines how physicalobjects will be part of the internet as they become trackable in spaceand time. Bruce discusses the theoretical and technical challengesthat we face as we try and think about and develop the Internet ofThings. From Spimes to Challenges: Thing Links to Blogjects, the terminology andverbal framing devices currently being used are pulled apart in thiskeynote address from the 2006 O'Reilly Emerging Technology Conference. Google Generation - who needs a library!

Duncan Shingleton, 'RFID and the Internet of Things: You are part of the Global Network', 2007, http://www.shingleton.org/?page\_id=1420bjects tagged with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip havea unique digital identity and play a pivotal role in joining thephysical world with the digital. A resulting 'Internet of Things'emerges, consisting of networked objects that are capable ofcommunicating what they are, and what is going on in the space aroundthem. This is the moment where the real world and the Internet becomeinseparably linked, occupying the same space, becoming the samereality: a merging of 1st and 2nd Life. Current theory surrounding theInternet of Things maintains the viewpoint we are outside the networkand in control of the agency we have over our objects. The taggedobject's role in the Internet is to streamline economic practice andmake our lives more convenient. However I propose and alternativehypothesis for addressing the theory that RFID now and active tagswere developed in the private sector and in military research. Todaythey are intended and means we areincluded within the Internet of Things, and not spectators of this newdigital age. There is a resulting transfer of agency as objects becomeactive members of society. contributing to social debate.
as we seewhat can only be defined as a truly ubiquitous network environmentemerging, where the real used basically for supply chain optimization inlogistics.

Cost of buildings - maximise use

Students were introduced to the library as a social, cultural and technical context for their work. Masters Design Studio, Roland Levinsky Building During a briefing session the students were asked to respond to the following characteristics of Thursday 7th Feb

Complexity of cpoyright laws Shifting sands of publishing world - now you see it now you don't! Complexity of licensing regulations Areas of Improvement: Induction - needs to be more interesting / interactive Information literacy workshops - how can we improve them Better stock control Public catalogue - needs to be more interactive Marketing of e-resources is intrinsically bound with the digital. Wikipedia definition of RFID, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RFID

11.00 Present the library as a working context

12.00 Organise groups and let them loose

10.00 Meet and present conceptual framework of RFID and related technologies

15.00 Return to studio and present work in progress 17.00 Close

> Friday 8th Feb 9.00 Students fine tune ideas

> > 14.00 Present to library team 16.00 close

Project Team

Tutors: Geoff Cox, Pete Davis, Chris Speed Seminar: Gianni Cornino, Davide Marocco

> although all created equal and identical the second they enter the real world they begin to evolve and grow, as knowingly or unknowingly people leave their marks on this vessel of knowledge. This may take the form of a fold on a page corner, or a note on a margin, but can be as subtle as a build up of smudge marks on a well used page corner, or a particular bending of the spine. The marks build into history that remains within and is unique to the book. Far from damaging, or detracting from the book as we are taught when young these scars of use serve to enrich the information, providing clues as how to others have viewed and interpreted it.

> > This evolution, and editing, as well as a notion of preserving willingly or unwillingly something of yourself in this agent or vessel for information we term a book is something which is lost in the translation to electronic media.

This is a bizarre occurrence given the ease with which one make and reverse changes within the electronic environment, destroying any notions of preservation of a thing with an associated value which might discourage the visual manifestations of history and past use within a printed text. I feel this is partly associated with the immediacy, tangibility and flexibility of a paper as a medium for carrying information, and the instancy and tangibility of those changes. These changes to the original state of the book form a history, which can in itself tell you a lot about the information in the book, be it the structure, or in interpretation or contextualisation. This enrichment of the text should be encouraged wherever possible... change this it is rubbish....

Tony harker, Sylvia llecha, xiajang

The outcome we have discussed focuses very much of the physical manifestation of books, and how

Using E-books and journals as a starting medium the potential to produce an amalgam text corporating these notes, and personal thoughts of readers in order to create an evolved text is immense. This elovution and reshaping of the text has the potential to update in terms of thought and context the information within the book or journal, as well as suggesting devices to aid understanding. or provide contrast, or support to the material within the publication.

This has the potential for the commentary to advance into being an entity in itself, which could then be commented upon, and grow with the text, producing a combined text, an expanding co-written body of information, where thoughts and opinions, elements of the humanity of the readers can be preserved within this electronic medium forever.

> These comments could be attributed to readers, providing the option of reading specific commentaries. upon combined into a rich volume of useful texts complete with references from your time at university. This would end the days of references being forgotten and lost within obscure reports, and would help provide a lasting memorandum of what you accomplished, and were driven by during this time of great use throughout the rest of your life, further enhancing the outcomes that university education as a whole

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Group 3

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MA Contemporary Designer Maker

MA / MSc / MRes Digital Art & Technology http://m.i-dat.org/

http://www.3ddesign.org.uk/

Miguel Oliveros



Image: Group 1 becoming the book