

AMBIGUOUS DIRECTIONS

*This document serves as the Manifesto of Working Library
as well as instructions for activation for Ersatz Librarians*

A library is many things.¹

We are a space of becoming; an ongoing activity.

We welcome everyone² and insist that diversity strengthens our communities.

We seek to create a safe space which becomes a sanctuary for conversation, learning, gathering, and making.

We wish to complicate and question the subject³ and the participant as resources within an art project.

We cultivate authentic relationships and prevent conversation from degenerating into research.

Our relation to a site is an essential component of the project.⁴

We wish to explore alternative networks of communication, information, and distribution.

We believe in a space where production, participation, and reception are intimately intermeshed.

Sustained engagement is crucial to each iteration of *Working Library* as we employ time-based aspects that foster processes of thinking⁵, articulate relationships, and seek meaning and value.

Art is a knowledge⁶ structure.

A communicative impetus fuels the project.

¹ E.B. White to the children of Troy, Michigan via Marguerite Hart, April 14, 1971.

² Races, ethnicities; religions and creeds, gender identities, countries of origin, sexual orientations, immigrants and refugees, all abilities, spoken and signed languages.

³ Subject is the spirit of the Working Library.

⁴ We must always offer respectful recognition to the Native communities in our region and to those who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We must consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together. Please pay respect to the contributions Indigenous peoples have made to our community, country, and world.

⁵ Making, conversing, reading, action, etcetera

⁶ We are using knowledge here in the sense of experiential knowledge or tacit knowledge (as opposed to formal, codified or explicit knowledge) is the kind of knowledge that is difficult to transfer to another person by means of writing it down or verbalizing it. It's the kind of thing you know by heart.