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**Towards a Tactical Librarianship**

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# Introduction

Techno-rational “spectacles of disintegration” (Wark, 2011), mutation of communication systems into media fragments, is embedded into invisible infrastructures of “metadata society” (Pasquinelli, 2015). Diffused across cognitive platforms, algorithmic control over code surplus value (Pasquinelli, 2014 ) in digital prosumer labour reinstates questions on organizing alternatives in commons, networked distribution of knowledge beyond dominant, noble lie on information democratization. Critical “commons” of librarianship and tactical media converge in distributive freedoms of shadow libraries. Following remembrances on the critical core of librarianship counterculture from Bay Area and lesson from Celeste West on “learning to be a publisher, as well as librarian and journalist” (Samek, 2010, 32) I argue in favor of introducing the “pirate philosophy” (Hall, 2016) as methodological tool for identifying current micropolitics of resistance in digital humanities from which tactical librarianship emerges as a critical pedagogical proposal.

**Theoretical framework**

Critical librarians are agents of subverting of dominant narratives of professionalism, neutrality canon, apolitical indifference, and information commodification. In that light, this paper offers a tactical layer to critical librarianship recognizing practices of “amateur librarians”, “shadow libraries”, “pirate philosophy” (Medak and Mars, 2015; Balasz, 2015; Hall, 2016) in the scope of radical resistance to “neutrality” regarding information disruption. Since postindustrial age transposed the discourse of technology neutrality in reproductive niche of “culture of machines” (Finn, 2017) that operates through commodification of attention (Wu, 2016), a liminal position for critical librarianship is located in a critique of quasi-libertarian logic of netizens’ emancipation and algorithmic codification of the social needs. Googlization of knowledge, infrastructural imperialism as a consequence of a public failure (Vaidhyanathan, 2011) asks for deeper ontological critique of epistemic mediation, from modern documentalist tradition (indexing of cultural forms and social norms) to “indexing it all” (Day, 2014).

On the other side, digital resistance, networked solidarity, and political movements (Tufekci, 2017) emerge in commonality of countercultural imagination (alternatives in press, commons based peer production) through organized networks of “fragile knowledge infrastructures” (Medak and Mars, 2015, 82). Setting off this framework as continuance in research for critical pedagogy instruction/action, tactical librarianship performs “affirmative sabotage” (Spivak, 2012, 4) in challenging of the dominant semiotic regime of platform capitalism (Lovink, 2016).

**Discussion**

I contend that critical librarianship with encounters of nomadic powers of being diversified, heterogeneous, and hybrid, aligns with currents of “civic hacking” (Coleman, 2017 ). Since “the space of the tactical is always precarious” (Kluitenberg, 2011) I debate that “tactical librarianship” accentuates essential scope of pirate philosophy: “to try out and put to the test new economic, legal, and political models for the creation, publication, and circulation of knowledge and ideas, models that are more appropriate for our postcrash sociopolitical situation?“ (Hall, 2017).

Further debates on Information Machine (Pasquinelli, 2014) and tactical librarianship could be promulgated in critical internet studies (Lovink, 2016), digital posthumanities theories (Hall, 2017), and alternatives to corporate sharing economy: networking infrastructures of “platform cooperativism” (Scholz, 2016).

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