

Genealogy

A genealogy of several OSP projects unfolds since 2008 around the questions we'll be excited to explore in another way in Seoul :

— During several Dingbat Liberation Fests, OSP insisted on questioning from the side what a glyph is, what a letter is, and how we can reappropriate these precious parts of the culture as our own (even if a legitimate smoothing effect by Unicode codification effort tend to loose the granularity at the heart of each script-language-typography triangle). Dingbat Dictées are recipes for teaching Unicode poetry to students of all ages.

<http://ospublish.constantvzw.org/blog/?s=dingbat>
<http://www.constantvzw.org/vj12/>
<http://ospublish.constantvzw.org/blog/typo/dingbat-dictee>
<http://ospublish.constantvzw.org/blog/live/dingbat-liberation-fest-ii>

— An osp installation system called 'Nancy', deploying the Dingbats Liberation Fest at the gallery My.Monkey in Nancy, (F) and then at Make-Art Festival in Poitiers, (F).
<http://ospublish.constantvzw.org/blog/news/dingbats-in-a-monkey>
<http://ospublish.constantvzw.org/nancy/>

— Based on these experiments, OSP member Pierre Marchand develops 'Nancy', a software made to support collective font design, also if dispersed over time and geographic location. A patchwork of classic Free, Libre and Open Source softwares, the system is

semi-automated process of scanning of cardboard-cut dingbats and a collaborative font.

— Part of Nancy is the OCR module 'Fonzie': Fonzie outgrowth has been developed after several pushes between, among others things, the need for a convenient way to reproduce handdrawn fonts for translated version of comics, using OpenType features to automatically switch between different versions of each glyph that try to emulate variations of typical hand drawn lettering.

Fonzie's progressive modifications follow various different type design needs and shapes multiple processes.

<http://ospublish.constantvzw.org/blog/?s=fonzie>
<http://ospublish.constantvzw.org/blog/news/asian-record-side-a>

— A more straightforward version of Fonzie is used in workshops starting schools in Brussels and London, but also performances and book design.

— A hackerspace in Brussels built a DIY-bookscanner and another evolution of Fonzie nicknamed Funzie added other OCR features to convert physical to digital reading by producing hybrid fonts. The reading process of the machine can be watched, understood, read, rewritten, changed and endlessly executed. This explores the artistic potential of the different elements in the transmission from the physical book to the digital object: the code, the fonts, the training data, the book and the digitally reborn text.

<http://video.constantvzw.org/VJ13/>
http://www.vj13.constantvzw.org/archive/funzie_fonzie/