Ynibox – presentation

Context

Frequentation of libraries worldwide is decreasing, meanwhile online platforms are more frequented than before. Libraries have deployed digital tools to help remote access to theirs resources, in order to attract the digital natives and promote cultural resources. Their aim was to avoid entertainment only resources.

But these tools, expansive and complicated to implement, are mostly setup by wealthy structures. Small libraries, with small budget, are excluded of this digital evolutions. They are especially excluded of these services if they are located in **remote areas, far from any internet access,** or if they have not digital skills internally available to implement these services. Our device is designed to strengthen libraries with no or small internet access, including intermittent access. This is the case for a small library in a temporary settlement, including IDP or Refugees camp.

The Ynibox device allows a library to implement easily digital catalog and tools, educational and cultural contents, without an internet access.

Existing tools

Some software already exist that proposes similar features. So why should we do another one ? Our ideas is not to create something from scratch, but to aggregate existing software to facilitate their implementation and use. We target small libraries, those without full time computer engineers, with limited budget, with little or no internet access. The Ynibox device can run on computers from the consumer market, for a better diffusion. We focus on training and self training materials, to facilitate setup and appropriation by librarians or volunteers in charge.

Contribution of the Ynibox

The Ynibox allows a collection catalogue to be accessible with a digital device (phone, tablet, computer) and helps the reader find what he wants in the documents.

It allows the readers to access Wikipedia and other resources without internet access, and free of charge, on his own device.
It allows the sharing of an optional internet access, implementing parental controls.
It allows local users to share contents they made, with moderating mechanisms.

Features

The Ynibox is built on a light and simplified version of Linux. It needs few hardware resources, and can run on a laptop or desktop computer aged 8 years. The system is very reliable, virus proof, and maintenance is very limited.

Implementation

The Ynibox system can be downloaded and setup everywhere for free. It can be tested in a live version, on usb stick or DVD. It can be deployed quickly, in two hours, on any computer, by a user with average technical skills. It allows the immediate share, in wifi, of Wikipedia and eBooks without any internet access.

Maintenance

The Ynibox is reliable and needs almost no maintenance. A documentation is provided for installation and post installation tasks.

Project achivement

Here are the main features of the software :

- Integrated Library Software (multilingual) ;
- Wikipedia offline, both English and French versions ;
- Sharing of an internet access (no parental control yet) ;
- Local collaborative website (human moderation needed) ;
- Accessible by smartphone, tablet, computer ;
- More than 1000 eBooks available at download and reading ;
- Training supports.

Deployment

The Ynibox has been deployed in Burma between September and December 2016. It now empowers a local library in an international school, a public library dedicated to expatriates and French students, and a mobile library running in the street of Yangon.