



## AN ACT OF READING Aldo or the Librarian

After its foundation, the technicians of the library were trained to follow detailed principles to keep its system alive. The order of the books had to be synchronic, diachronic, geological, (organized for layers of time), functional, (informed by the common use of users' everyday life), alphabetical, linguistic and thematic. Thus, it was clear that the juxtaposition of these criteria made the library a patchwork of subsystems, rules and items. As a final attempt to give a more universal order, the technicians decided to adopt an apparently random rule based on the associations that books grouped together generate in readers' minds.

Still today, it is possible to find library's official documents reporting:

"Books that contain possible associations should be together since the reader that is interested in one of them is a potential reader of them all."

In the library, each book represented one idea: a group of books from the same shelf could create a whole new meaning for the world once associated by the right reader.

This discovery made the technician realize the infinite possibilities of the library. Nobody would have ever imagined that such an ordinary place would have contained so much potential.

Those elegant hopes warmed up the days and the heart of a lonely librarian that used to walk through the shelves of the library singing a jingle to pick his books.

"... il dottore si ammalò  
ambarabà cicci coccò!"<sup>ii</sup>.

ii. Position: tunnel III, shelf IIII left side, spot n. 34 between *The sun as error*, Shannon Ebner in collaboration with Dexter Sinister, LACMA, and *Morning #Chapter 30*, R. H. Quaytman, Prestel.