

Fablab and the expanding Makersphere

Bart Bakker

- www.fablab.nl
- www.minifablab.nl



BartB

- Post-pensionado

Used to be retired, no more time for that

- Waag Society
- 1st NL fablab in 2007 'El Hema'
- Protospace Utrecht
- miniFabLab
- Fablab Benelux

Erkende FabLabs

FabLab Amersfoort

FabLab Amsterdam Waag Society

FabLab Arnhem

FabLab Den Haag

De Factorij Eindhoven

FabLab Enschede

Timelab Gent

FabLab Groningen

FabLab Noord-Brabant Den Bosch

FabLab Leuven

Protospace FabLab Utrecht

miniFabLab Utrecht

Stadslab Rotterdam

FabLab Truck (mobiel)

FabLab Zuid-Limburg Maastricht

StartLab Afbramerij Ulf

FabLab Bergen op Zoom

FabLab Genk

FabLabXL Brussel

FabLab Flevoland Dronten /
BiblioLab Lelystad

FabLab Brainport Eindhoven

FabLab Luxemburg

FabLab013 in Tilburg

Rotslab Utrecht

RElab Liège / Luik

FabLab Zwolle

FabLab ZB45 Amsterdam

Roots 1947

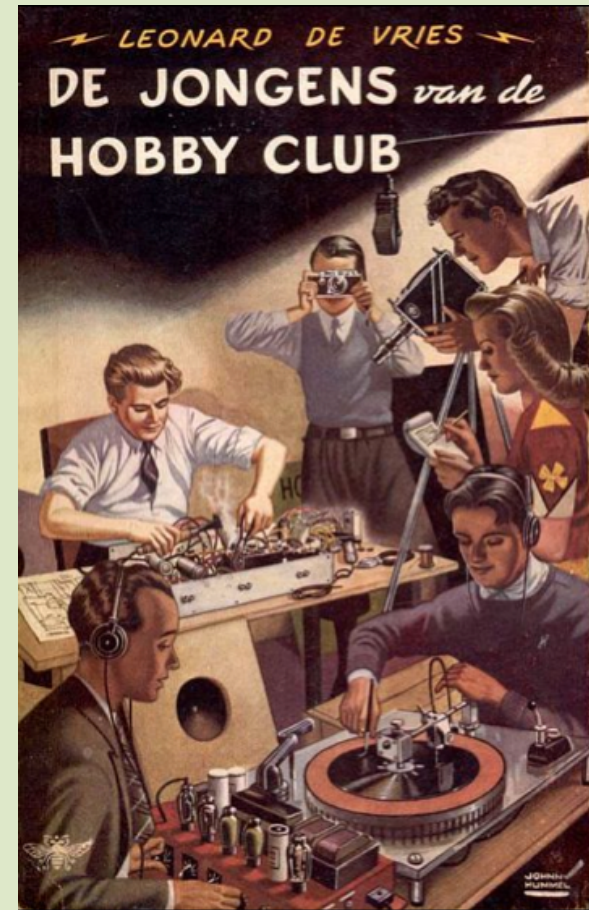
Leonard de Vries during WWII wrote

‘[The boys from the Hobby Club](#)’. 1947

His goal was to get people on the learning curve of new technology: radio, electronics, sound rec, film

By 1950 70 hobbyclubs in Holland

The hacker/makerspaces of the time



Roots 2006

7 years ago life was simpel

- **Fablab**
 - make things
 - edu MIT \$100k
 - vertical
- **Hackerspace**
 - hack things
 - nerdy
 - horizontal
- First **Makerfaire** in San Mateo

2013

- Fablabs
- Hackerspaces
- Makerspaces

- in an expanding Maker Movement

- Repair Café Fix lab Hacklab
- Makelab Bibliolab Technasium
- Techlab Techshop iFabrica

oops

The **Maker** movement

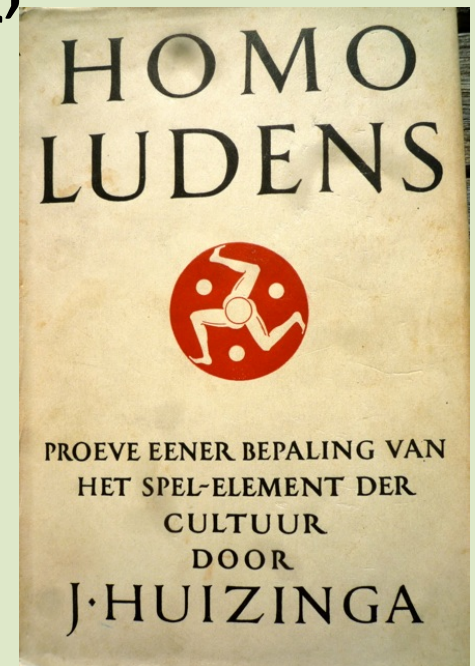
- DIY got a wider dimension
- MAKE magazine
- MakerFaires
- Appeals to people
- Interest in 3D-printing
- Commercial makerspaces

FUN



The Power of Play

- Johan Huizinga, Dutch historian
- *Homo Ludens*, 1938
- ‘Culture emerges from Play’
- ‘Cultures that foster Play are richer’
- Play is the appeal of the
Maker movement over Fablab



Homo faber - *Homo ludens*

- **FabLabs**
 - serious - usefulness
- **Makerspaces**
 - fun and Play
- **Fablabs**
 - overrated by the public
- **Maker Movement**
 - is still underestimated



Objectives of both

- No real difference
- *Get people on the learning curve of digital fabrication*
- Underlying long term philosophy
- Digital local fabrication
- Kids



Trends in NL

- Fablabs/makerspaces in
 - Schools
 - Libraries
 - Neighbourhoods/communities
- Institutional funding is scarce
- 50% of initiatives is 'grassroots'
- Bottom up
- Tenacious individuals



Community aspect

- Each want to create a community
- Power of any movement
- Grassroots are good in that
- More of a club feeling
- Nurture your community !
- Lifecycle

By 1974 all Hobby Clubs were gone




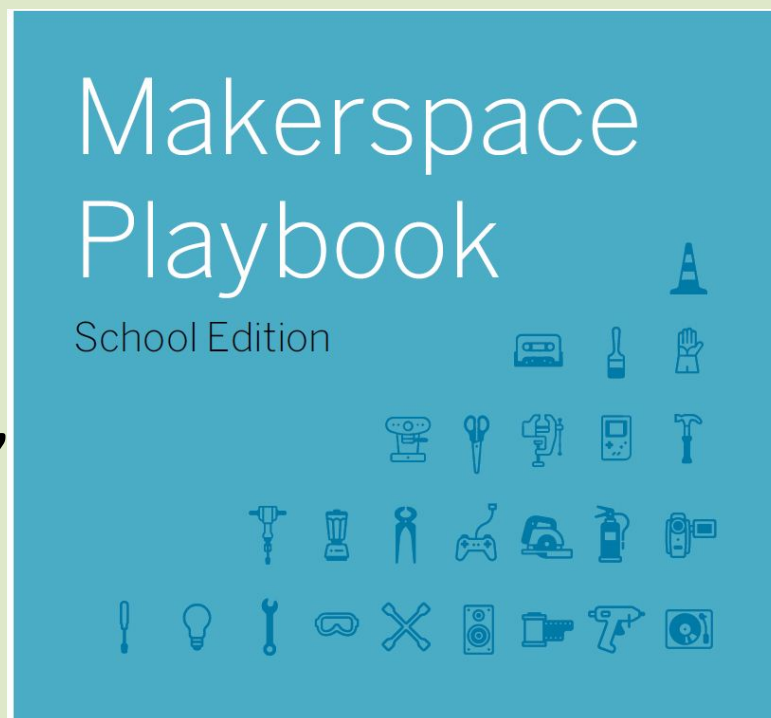
Book 1953

Challenges for fablab

- Widening makersphere
- Big potential
- Our labs are very diverse
- Fablabs not open in evening/weekend
- Little outreach
- Growth can and will occur outside fablab
- Where? Why?

O'Reilly

- If you want to start a **Makerspace**
 - Download the Makerspace Playbook
 - Free
 - Tons of info
 - Of course a commercial interest in anything 'Make'
 - Power of Play
- 
- The image shows the cover of the 'Maker Playbook School Edition'. The title 'Maker Playbook' is in large white letters on a blue background, with 'School Edition' in smaller white letters below it. At the bottom, there are several small white icons representing various maker tools and concepts, including a 3D printer, a robot, a lightbulb, and a gear.



Adafruit

- If you want to start a Hackerspace
- Download 'How To Start A Hackerspace'
- Free
- Nice tutorials
- Commercial interest too



Both nourish the Makersphere

Fablab

- If you want to start a FabLab
- Scattered info is available indeed
- No good vehicle to offer knowledge outside
- Our labs are very diverse and introvert
- Not even a good vehicle to share knowledge
- The MCU (Polycom) is hardly used
- Should we bother about the Makersphere?

Option 1

- Focus on current fablab
- \$100k type MIT labs
- Institutional (=vertical) funding
- Education oriented
- Fabacademy as global campus
- Worldwide community
- ‘MIT-elite’

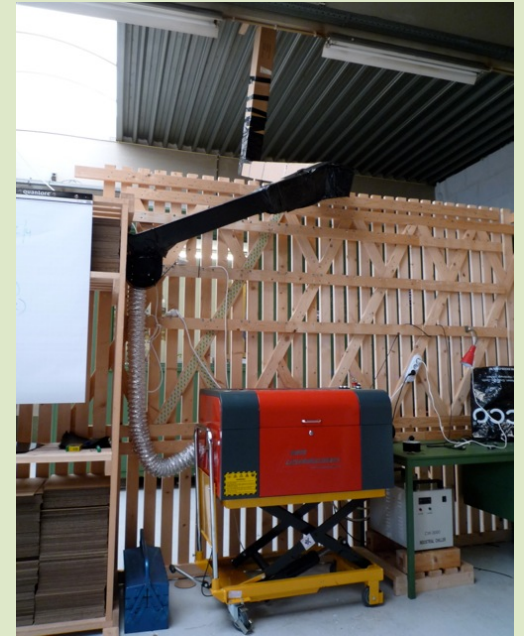


Option 2

- See existing \$100k fablabs as hubs
- Coaching smaller \$10k labs
 - Fablabs
 - Makerspaces
 - Others
- Possibly helping with MtM
- Regional focus

Option 3

- Extend the fablab definition
- Embrace smaller initiatives
- Condition: offer open access
- A mesh of \$10K labs
 - Neil Gershenfeld



The fablab objective stands:

Get people on the learning curve of digital fabrication

What we do in Holland

- We embrace newcomers and initiatives
 - Community spaces
 - Schools, libraries, neighbourhoods, cities
 - Promote the Spirit of the FabCharter
 - Community, open access
-
- We try to coach them - with limited resources
 - Fabtable, miniFabLab, visits



Worldwide

- Easy in the Benelux
- Our 250+ worldwide fablab community is not geared up to that
- Should they?
- We should reflect on our ambition.
- As the Makersphere expands.

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