



In a context of abundance which could make users think that they will find what they need on the net without having to consult library websites or without having to go to the library itself, what is at stake for public libraries today is to offer value-added resources to attract them.

Now, although public libraries owning mediaeval manuscripts are not to be blamed for displaying them in their website digital library – such documents being unique this is indeed a service which no other library could offer – it is much more difficult for libraries with no patrimonial collections to find a place on the Internet, at least in France.

Basing my speech on the example of France, I am going to try to give a range of answers. We shall thus examine successively:

1. How public libraries have integrated and exploited digital technology
2. How cultural action has found its place in their documentary offer thanks to multimedia
3. How digital mediation is situated at the core of a librarian's job and absolutely has to accompany the resources themselves, whether they be digital or not.