

Never he seen a book *liberado* in that shelf of the metro. Last Monday at midday there was a copy of a free newspaper that someone had perfectly accommodated, but there were no books for exchange. Generous nothing. Observing that newspaper, I asked a girl who was waiting on the platform if she had noticed a shelf in the shelf that had been fixed there, and she looked at me with a confused expression. Take the L-2, the purple one, every day since a year because she studies at the Universitat de Barcelona, and goes up and down at the metro stop Universitat.

No knew that there was a point of exchange of books. It is not the only one. In the metro of Barcelona, there are exchange points in Zona Universitària, Espanya, Diagonal, Passeig de Gràcia, Universitat and Catalunya. The initiative began in 2008 when the Department of Culture and Mitjans de Comunicació asked TMB to facilitate spaces for exchange with the objective

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Los 'pasalibros' de los andenes del metro

de fomentar the culture. The motto was: «Agafa un llibre i deixa'n 1 de teu». The campaign ended with the crisis and with the years I have always had good luck with those shelves.

In some cities, like in Buenos Aires, the exchange of books is a game for citizens: you have to find the *libro tesoro* and, sometimes, you have to collect clues in the style of **Sherlock Holmes**. It begins in some page of exchange of books or in some bookstore or association.

In other cities, the readers know where the exchange points are



► Repisa de libros de Universitat.

that other readers *liberan* books. In Marseille, for example, a giraffe-shaped sculpture in the center of the city always houses some reading. In Barcelona, in a heladería that was in the plaza de los Àngels –closed a few months ago– there was a basket with exchange books. «They take many and leave few», said one of the girls who worked there. Rapidly it became an international movement. In theory,

It has been a month, in the exchange points in the platform of Catalunya metro stop, there was only a contact card next to a curriculum. The crisis chapter, always between lines. Books, none. The same day I found that curriculum I found a pile of discarded books next to a trash can in the Rambla del Raval. They were old novels that were given away 25 years ago. No one knew who they were.

In the days before Sant Jordi, the action of releasing a book is anonymous. To see if in June I have more luck. ■

one book during 2012, the 1.2% more than in 2011. The 16% of the readers lend books.

The experiment of turning cities into a global and free library began in 2001 in the United States, and it was given the name of *bookcrossing*, which means something like leaving books in public places. It quickly became an international movement. In theory,

En el metro hay hasta seis estaciones en las que se pueden cambiar ejemplares

the *bookcrossers* register their books in the official website, and thus it is possible to know where they have been.

In the shelves of the metro the action of releasing a book is anonymous. To see if in June I have more luck. ■



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