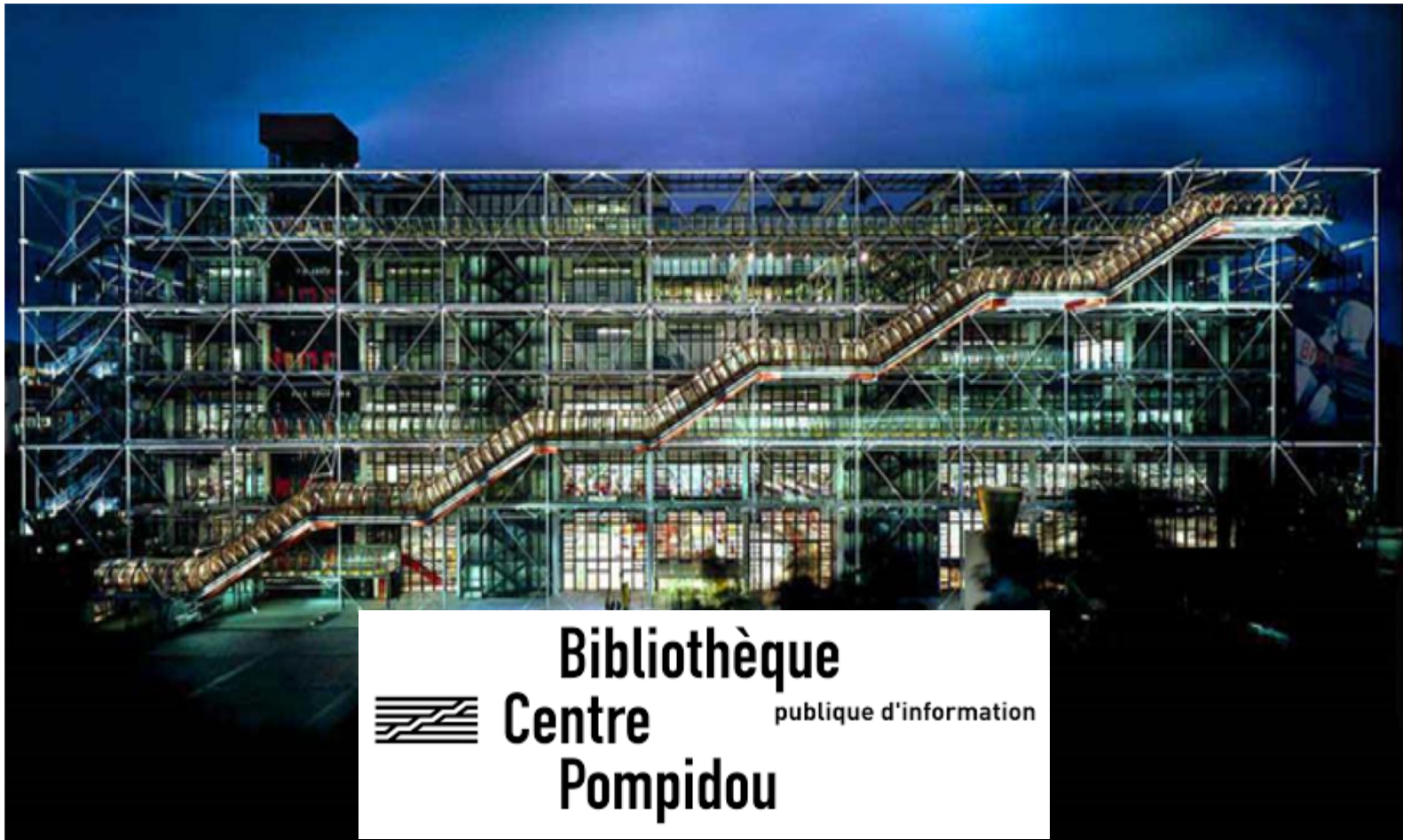


Conversation workshops at the Public library of information (Paris, France)



The public library of information in the Centre George Pompidou



 **Bibliothèque**
Centre publique d'information
Pompidou

Cécile Denier



A simple idea...

- Propose regular appointment in the library
- To exchange, discuss, play, debate ...in a foreign language (especially french)
- And so improve one oral use
- Animated by someone in their native language
- No need for a teacher, or computers, nor long and complex preparation ...
- Just a room (or somewhere!), some chairs, some photocopies (sometimes), a board (if you really want)...and a small motivated team to animate the sessions

...which corresponds to a real need

- Regular demands from users who **“wish to improve their speaking ability”**
- Languages methods are not up to scratch on this point
- Few sessions (or not for free) elsewhere than in libraries
- A need to meet others and for conviviality

At the Bpi...

- **Summer 2010** the French as a foreign language (FLE) and Spanish started
- Extending to English, German, Portuguese, Chinese and Russian
- To begin, with advanced inscriptions then without inscriptions (arrive between 15 and 45 mn in advance)
- Multiply the number of sessions a week (2 for English, 3 pour le FLE)
- Internal **training courses** for the part timers and for the titulars who are interested

Success !

- **A great success for over 8 years with the participants... but also with the the librarians / animators !**
- **The participants come to improve their language... and leave often with friends!**

...And elsewhere !

- More and more libraries have offers
- Montreuil, Evry, Pantin, Bobigny, La Courneuve, Bonneuil-sur-Marne, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, BnF, Paris...
- « Café bla bla », « La Parlotte/la Speakotte », « Café des langues »
- **Numerous demands for information and trainings sessions (four or five/year)**

What happens during a workshop at the Bpi?

- Time: 1:15 mn, 1 animator for the session, maximum 15 people
- Go round table, or not
- The organizer lances a subject, a debate, an activity or a game ...
- He leans a lot on the word of the participants

→ **A relaxed and friendly atmosphere**

→ **Forget that one is speaking a foreign language!**

What happens during a workshop at the Bpi?

- Try to get everyone to speak but don't force those who are shy or ill at ease
- Use a board to write down some words (if necessary)
- Only speak in French !
- Make a link with documents to be found in the library
- Sitting down or standing up ?
- Tu or vous ?

What happens during a workshop at the Bpi?

- **Bring up again, deepen, develop, redistribute the speech, include other participants in the debate, calm down the most talkative...**
- Correct (a bit)/reformulate (with tact)
- Propose (from time to time) small group activities of 3-4 (with a collective get together afterwards)
- Think of cultural differences : « and you, in your country, how do you do this ? »

Our public

- A knot of faithful participants but always newcomers
- The language level: intermediate, but in fact, a bit of each level!
- A heterogeneity often interesting and useful
- A large variety of ages, nationalities, socio-professional categories ...

→ **A very rich mixture !**

What it is not ...

It is not a language or civilization course!

- No grammar
- No vocabulary written down
- No reading of texts or articles from the press
- No master classes
- No long preparation (30 mn maximum!)

This offer is completed by

- Languages methods in the self training area
- One session with a french movie (french subtitles and debate about the movie)
- **Writing workshops** (French for foreigners)
- And **Communication workshop** for beginners
“Premiers pas en français”, first steps in French

Un film de Bernhard Braunstein

There's no strangers, but only people we don't know yet ([trailer](#))



Thank you !

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