


by Dinah Handel 3 years ago


# #critlib 12/2/2014 Archives!

#critlib chat on December 2, 2014 about Archives. Moderated by @barnlib. Learn more about #critlib here: <http://tinyurl.com/critlibx>

LLL | Litwin Books  
LLL | @litwinbooks

A propos tonight, plugging the Litwin Books Series on Archives, Archivists and Society  
[litwinbooks.com/series-archive...](http://litwinbooks.com/series-archive...) #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO

 **Barnard Library**  
barnlib @barnlib

When will we combine #critlib and @LibWardrobe, where people tweet photos of their chatwear? #critclothes

 3 YEARS AGO



#critlibselfies #critlib #intersectionalfeminismfuckyeah [pic.twitter.com/ZO3iLnAHCf](http://pic.twitter.com/ZO3iLnAHCf)

 BARNARD LIBRARY @BARNLIB · 3 YEARS AGO



**Melissa Morrone**  
@InfAgit


Can't join #critlib but want to note that several chapters in Informed Agitation deal w/ critical/radical archiving: [informedagitation.info/authors](http://informedagitation.info/authors)

 3 YEARS AGO



**Library Juice Press**  
@LibJuicePress

Call for Papers - Radical Archives (Archive Journal) [libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=4832](http://libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=4832)  
#critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**  
barnlib @barnlib

Hellooooo, #CRITLIB! Let's have intros. I'm moderating tonight (Jenna Freedman, Barnard Coll) & grateful to critical @BarnardArchives-ists.

 3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**  
barnlib @barnlib

I also want to acknowledge @BarnardArchives-ists Martha Tenney & Shannon O'Neill for helping me craft tonight's questions. #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO

## Question 1 [Intros removed]



**Barnard Library**  
barnlib @barnlib

Q1 How do you shape a coll dev't policy that reflects a critical, non-colonialist approach to "collecting" the undercollected? #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**  
rowmyboatwmyboat

#critlib #A1 \*sigh\* I think that depends a lot on our institution's mission; might have to decolonize them first.

 3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

@ibeilin Do tell about your archives mixed feelings! #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

@barnlib Well, most of them were in Germany, and I generally loved the archivists... #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

@barnlib But it took me a year or so to stop being scared to death of the places. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat rowmyboat

#critlib A! That said, finding the wiggle room in existing missions is totally possible.



3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**

stephesellaphestellar

Q1 Archives are just coming around to this, I think. Reading, asking questions of current efforts, listening to others helps #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Lisa Lepore**

lisaflepor @lisaflepor

A1 Read further on colonialism to understand what anti-colonialism would look like, how possible within context. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel @DinahHandel

A1 I think also being an advocate for the community whose histories you want to "collect" and perhaps reframe "collecting" #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboatrowmyboat

[#critlib](#) A1 Say you collect women's history. Ok, there's room there for incarcerated women, trans women, women of color, indigenous women.



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

Folks who are new to [#critlib](#), [#LIS](#) students, please feel confident to speak up. People are generally nice here. :)



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandelDinahHandel

A1 you aren't just collecting... you're also hopefully using the materials for other purposes...  
[#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboatrowmyboat

[#critlib](#) A1 Listening for the silence in the archives, as is said. And examining where your own discomforts & biases are & pushing on that.



@stephstellar · 3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratansyeiratansye

Q1 this question pre-supposes that archives in general collect from the larger world, but many don't (e.g., institutional archives) [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymcekellymce

A1: To me has a lot to do with respecting ways that marginalized communities collect their own damn history. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO





**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel@DinahHandel

[@kellymce](#) agree!!! Important to build a good relationship with your community/person etc whose items you think are important. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Lisa Lepore**

lisaflepo@lisaflepo

A1 Allow for small presses non presses oral histories give platforms to digital collections that support other voices [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat@rowmyboat

.[@lisaflepo](#) Yeah! Different ways of knowing, working with info, etc are used by different people. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat@rowmyboat

[#critlib](#) A1 Having diverse inputs into your collecting policies -- more cooks in that kitchen, please!



3 YEARS AGO



**Emily Drabinski**

@edrabinski

A1 And maybe you have lots of ppl making the policy, maybe incl ppl/communities you want to collect? [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

A1: Sometimes, this means recognizing that your institution ain't the right place for records, that they belong in the community. [#critlib](#)



@rowmyboat · 3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat rowmyboat

.@kellymce DEACCESSION THAT SHIT #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce kellymce

@rowmyboat or don't accession it in the first place! #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib barnlib

Can be hard to do. We know best! MT @kellymce A1: Sometimes, this means recognizing...the records...belong in the community. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

I'd be interested in learning what govt archivists have to say about Q1 #critlib



@kellymce · 3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel DinahHandel

Yeah, and I really like post-custodial archival practice... [qub.me/cg3vqN](http://qub.me/cg3vqN) #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**M is for Management**

RachelM Fleming RachelM Fleming

Q1 #critlib our collection is in appalachian studies and getting that recognized as important is an ongoing challenge. just keep hammering.



3 YEARS AGO



**Allana Mayer**

@allanaaaaaaa

@eiratansey #critlib Q1 this is my problem; I try for descriptive work that can expose those positions instead of collecting them outright.



3 YEARS AGO



**Michael Rodriguez**

@topshelver

A1 Not an archivist, but surely some indigenous communities don't want to be "collected" in the first place? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Holly Croft**

HollyCroft@HollyCroft

A2. Agreed, @topshelver. Or at least be allowed to collect their own things without "help" from outsiders. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat@rowmyboat

.@topshelver There was a discussion about this pertaining to activists maybe a year ago. Not much came of it. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Stephanie Sendaula**

@sendaulas

@rowmyboat @topshelver Hm, I could see that. Interesting debate though. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratansy@eiratansy

Semi-related thought to #readsaa5 and #critlib discussions: becoming a records manager has taught me a lot about being a better archivist



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

A1 It might also mean taking a community-centered approach: ask the community what they want from you. Maybe expertise, supplies... #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel

A1 yeah, I agree re: just simply not collecting [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

Moving on, because time...but keep responding to Q1 if you want. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratansy

Not sure I follow. My point is that many archives (e.g., corporate archives) don't collect outside of their institution [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

[@eiratansy](#) And it seems that many other archives that do collect outside of the instit. are simply opportunistic about it. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratansy

[@ibeilin](#) I reserve my biggest beefs for trophy collection archives that drive up the market and turn archives into commodities [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

Really good point [@eiratansy](#)! But even deciding what to collect within your institution can be loaded. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratans@eiratansy

@barnlib of course. but to a certain degree operational needs guide that discussion, more than in "collecting" repositories #critlib



@kellymce · 3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

Could afford the critical archivist a great platform for discussing institutional/operational needs & policies. @eiratansy #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jennifer Dekker**

@jayeldee

A1: been wondering lately if some records ought to be in an archive at all, given that "archive" is problematic for some cultures #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Steven baeJuan**

MisterBooth

@stephstellar A1 Yes & no. I believe Northeastern in Boston was one of the first academic archives to do so. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ryan Randall**

foureyed@foureyedsoul

A1 Perhaps try to anticipate & accommodate plural ways of knowing, different ways materials can be used for purposes/communities #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

@ibeilin Of course, safety is relative. I'm thinking of zine collections in punk kid squat house leaky basements. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

@lisalibrarian @ibeilin I mean literally, the materials are in danger of being destroyed/recycled. Other valences, matter too. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO

## Question 2



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

Q2 How do you document & be transparent about your appraisal, acquisition, description, processing, etc. methods & policies? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel@DinahHandel

A2 I think as a student of archives, transparency re policies is educational- I can read them in advance of applying/interview #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat@rowmyboat

#critlib A2 Retain iterations/versions, so changes can be seen. And put names on shit, so we know who to blame, I mean, who to speak with.



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

A2: Some of this is basic dejargonning. Make things accessible/searchable/findable. No one knows wth a finding aid is. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Lisa Lepore**

lisaflepe@lisaflepe

A2 Note, mark, document process and make documentation available to be learned from, to be critiqued #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Gina Murrell**

GinaMurrell1

A2: As a volunteer I've noticed transparency is maintained through clearly stated policies accessible to all in the department. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

I realized during this convo that our library has an archive & most libraries do in one form or another -these Qs rel. to libs too [#critlib](#)



@kellymce · 3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce

Like [@ibeilin](#) says -- if you do reference or instruction, archives may be relevant to your users. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

[@kellymce](#) And even from an administrative side - decisions need to be made about the collection, what to keep, collect, discard. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**natalie baur**

nataliebaur

[@kellymce](#) [@ibeilin](#) [#critlib](#) don't forget archives live side-by-side "library" materials in special collections esp those rel to area studies



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat

[#critlib](#) A2 For all that is holy, put as much documentation on the website as possible.



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel

A2 also having links to finding aids in multiple places... some come through catalog but others through archive's site itself [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**M is for Management**

RachelM Fleming

A2 [#critlib](#): can policies and procedures take the place of cultivated relationships with archivists deeply connected to the communities?



3 YEARS AGO



**Sara A Sterkenburg**

trisarato

Q2 These should be in visible policy. Don't acquire unless can have resources & plan (i.e timeline) for processing from the start! [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO

### Question 3



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

A3/Q3 What kinds of things do nontransparent archivists hide? [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

@barnlib What they've got? [#critlib](#) This is most definitely true in Russian state archives! (you have to have tea w/them first).



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratansy

A3 the author field on a finding aid. In my first job, we were considered unusual in that we signed the finding aids we wrote [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO





**Ryan Randall**

foureyedfoureyesoul

.@eiratansey For many reasons (i.e. showing labor; subjective aspects of interests/knowledge), seems revealing authorship is great #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboatrowmyboat

#critlib A3 Nontransparent archivists hide... everything. I think it usually comes down to power, which means a bigger problem.



3 YEARS AGO



**Jennifer Dekker**

@jayeldee

A3 What they haven't accepted into the archive? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratansyeiratansye

@jayeldee Oh wow. I love and hate this idea at same time. Could be a donor relations nightmare/educational moment extravaganza #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

MT @ibeilin in Russian state archives! (you have to have tea w/them [before they'll tell you what they have]). #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Angela Pashia**

LibrarianAngie

A3 - at first read that as “what do transparent archivists hide” - as in, what gets hidden even when we try to be open #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

A3 brings up the damned "found it in the archives" trope. We don't realize what we are "hiding" -  
- it's a communication prob . #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel@DinahHandel

@kellymce A3 communication and labor-- does everything always get processed item by item??  
#critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

@DinahHandel AHAHAHAHAHAHA, good one. #critlib I mean it comes down in some cases to  
the diff between libs and archives.



3 YEARS AGO



**Steve Ammidown**

stegan @stegan

A3 whatever the donors don't want to be seen, for better or worse. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Lisa Lepore**

lisaflep@lisaflepore

Non-transparent can mean the secrets of what is there or the void of what is not, different kinds  
of invisibility #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat@rowmyboat

#critlib A3 That's power to discriminate against readers; power to create a shitty workplace;  
power to hide important bits of knowledge.



3 YEARS AGO



**Jennifer Dekker**

@jayeldee

@eiratansey was thinking about Derrida, Schwartz, Trouillot #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

@eiratansey I was thinking that if you're not mandated to collect records that you think you shd be, you can take it up w yr corp. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratansey @eiratansey

A3 Why some archives have \$\$ for big collections/fellowships but apparently none for their interns #critlib



@kellymce · 3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

Q3 How do you address gaps in the archival record in a non-tokenizing manner, that doesn't erase the prior absence in the record? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat @rowmyboat

#critlib A3 Admittedly, on rare occasions, secrets are a blessing. Queer material wouldn't survive, say, without being at least obscured.



3 YEARS AGO



**Gina Murrell**

GinaMurrell @GinaMurrell1

A3 Maybe prioritizing the accession of certain materials based on the social or economic clout of the donor. Unspoken politics. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Steve Ammidown**

stegan @stegan

A3: also, lots of stuff is unintentionally "hiding" in the backlog #critlib



@rowmyboat · 3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

My sense as a researcher in state archives was that they were devoted to mirroring (and reproducing) the existing power structure. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Angela Pashia**

LibrarianAngie

A3 nontransparent can mean so much, but implicit biases can cause to forget to show some things even when we try to be transparent #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat

#critlib A3 Which means you must think about what could possibly be analogous to old queer collections; what must we hide in plain sight now?



3 YEARS AGO



**natalie baur**

nataliebaur

@RachelMFleming I think this is where collecting stories/papers of archivists w deep community ties is imp part of transparency #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**

@deantiquate

Q2 Try to be as detailed as possible in finding aids re. what recs arrived, what was discarded, clear excisions + suspected gaps. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**

stephenstellar  
@stephenstellar

A3 I've seen a lot of hiding done inadvertently - without policies, more subjective decisions/unconscious bias come into play [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat  
@rowmyboat

.@stegan AND YET WE HAVE SO MANY UN/DER EMPLOYED ARCHIVISTS [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Heather Iveson**

@TripleThreatLib

A3 An oral history + transcript had to be removed due to potentially slanderous content against those still living. That count? [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Ryan Randall**

foureyedsoul  
@foureyedsoul

@eiratansey Yes! I would have loved knowing just whom to contact (besides excellent @Lisa\_Deec ) when traveling to NYC for research [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat  
@rowmyboat

[#critlib](#) A3? 4? Nontokeniszing -- kinda have to start somewhere, I guess. But create the context for those records. It has to make sense.



3 YEARS AGO



**Steve Ammidown**

stegan @stegan

@rowmyboat EXACTLY. Bushels of them. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

@kellymce No. I must've messed up Q3. Either way answer it! #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Gina Murrell**

GinaMurrell @GinaMurrell1

@rowmyboat @stegan I'm one of them! (Looking for a paying j-o-b in Portland.) #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Michael Rodriguez**

@topshelver

A3 Wasn't there a historical archive of white supremacist material that had to be yanked from the web because it attracted racists? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Heather Iveson**

@TripleThreatLib

Q3 Open acknowledgement and working with those who have been under-represented if possible? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce @kellymce

A3 is really about putting to bed the myth of the neutrality of the archivist, I think. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

@topshelver This is frequently a problem in Germany, where any collection or exhibit of Nazi materials attracts bald guys in brown #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**  
LNBel @LNBel

Chiming in here A3 I've been accused of hiding, when telling researchers they have to do the work, and archival research=difficult #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Sara A Sterkenburg**  
trisarato@trisarato

A3: Amount collected vs. processed over time. Collections are pointless until accessible. Never-ending backlogs = failing our users #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Steve Ammidown**  
stegan @stegan

Q3: this is where finding aids (can) shine- document the gaps and the process of filling them. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**  
kellymce@kellymce

A3 Also, again, recognizing your limits. We can't expect non-radical institutions to suddenly have radical archives. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Stephanie Sendaula**  
@sendaulas

@ibeilin @topshelver Hm, I had no idea. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**  
@deantiquate

Q3 We've been dealing with this in the past 10 years, though had very 'progressive' collections from day 1 (but White/Anglo/Cis) #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**

stephes@stephestellar

A3 - Be as honest and open about why I'm interested in collecting now what wasn't collected in the past as I can [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**

LNBel @LNBel

Iate introduction, Ellen, a special coll librarian/archivist at CUNY focus is criminal justice [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

[@kellymce](#) I'm still amazed that NYU, that most neoliberal place, has the Tamiment archive and Downtown Collection! [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Sara A Sterkenburg**

trisarato@trisaratop

[@stephestellar](#) yup, I agree with this completely [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Jennifer Dekker**

@jayeldee

[@kellymce](#) of course not being neutral can really work in favour of social justice. like the TRC archives at U of Manitoba. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**RLB**

booklvr@booklvr8705

[#critlib](#) Q3 in general, we need more narratives that acknowledge empty spaces and excluded voices



3 YEARS AGO





**Gina Murrell**

GinaMurrell1

[@topshelver](#) Yes. The archive's reasoning was it wouldn't let archivists' distaste for the material prohibit public access to it. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel

A3 also has to do with documenting the archive's history, and being transparent, saying to patrons "this is our history" [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Ryan Randall**

foureyedsoul

[@MisterBooth](#) [@eiratansey](#) A shame—and also a reason to track authorship? “I’m doing best I can as non-subject specialist?” [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**

stephenstap

Finding aids are tools for archivists as much as they are for users re [@stegan](#)'s point - definitely mention what is absent [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce

[@ibeilin](#) And sometimes the radical people just recognized they needed to hold their noses and put the stuff somewhere safe. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratansy

[@foureyedsoul](#) [@MisterBooth](#) Well and the advent of MPLP in archives means a super detailed finding aid is a luxury of the past [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**  
@ibeilin


@kellymce Let's hope it's safe. #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**  
LNBel @LNBel

More A3- we collect, appraise, make avail. but don't always have resources to do more than minimal processing - that's not hiding #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Jennifer Dekker**  
@jayeldee

@DinahHandel that's such a strong point to make. #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**  
@ibeilin

@LNBel Yes, in places with very little funding and resources (like Russia) access is more dep. on personal relationships & favors #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**  
@deantiquate

Q3 Have had some success by building relationships directly w/ individuals, try 2 find allies who can vouch for us w/n community. #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Steven baeJuan**  
MisterBooth @MisterBooth

@stephestellar And direct users to related collections at other institutions #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**  
barnlib @barnlib

D'oh! Didn't include an MPLP question. #critlib #fail

 3 YEARS AGO



**rachel mattson**  
@captain\_maybe


i don't know which Q this answers if any, but i think so much about transparency is caught up with copyright law and its fuckedness #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**  
stephen@stephenstellar

@MisterBooth Yep, esp if it fills gaps! And if someone comes looking for info I know we didn't collect, I show them ArchiveGrid #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Gina Murrell**  
GinaMurrell1

@eiratansey @foureyedsoul @MisterBooth Yes! MPLP has been strongly encouraged in my recent volunteer work in archives. #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**  
kellymce@kellymce

@eiratansey @foureyedsoul @MisterBooth But sometimes there are ways users can contribute the detail we don't have time to. #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Ryan Randall**  
foureyedsoul

A3 Showing I'm a lib\*, not archivist: maybe link to current scholarship/LOC fields in finding aids to raise critical context? #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Ryan Randall**  
foureyedsoul


@foureyedsoul Or if not finding aids specifically, somewhere appropriate in collection's descriptive material? #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St. Onge**  
@deantiquate


Q3 People know they're at risk of being tokenized. Had some donors say "I trust \*you\* but if you leave, who will carry through?" #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**  
barnlib @barnlib

@captain\_maybe Should I segue to the #copyright question then? #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Michael Rodriguez**  
@topshelver

#critlib This is partly what I was thinking of. Thanks for the memory jolt, @stegan!  
[americanlibrariesmagazine.org/article/extrem...](http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/article/extrem...)

 3 YEARS AGO



**Lisa Hinchliffe**  
lisalibrarian @lisalibrarian

@kellymce @ibeilin really fascinated re this use of "safe" #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**  
kellymce @kellymce

@foureyedsoul Also, doing a better job to make archival collections discoverable along with the rest of a lib's collections... #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Allana Mayer**  
@allanaaaaaaa

@foureyedsoul yes, linked open data WOULD solve a lot of our problems .... #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**

@deantiquate

Q3 you have to be in for the long game. You're not just taking in records, you're committing to someone's legacy in perpetuity. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratans@eiratansey

@foureyedsoul this is a lot of the idea/impetus behind EAC-CPF [socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu](http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu)  
#critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat@rowmyboat

#critlib I think MPLP is largely bullshit. Workflow & effectiveness are great. But it's a way to get more from workers, do more with less.



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

This is so real. MT @deantiquate Q3...Had some [potentially tokenized] donors say "I trust u but if u leave, who will carry thru?" #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**

LNBel @LNBel

If an archive is described to the box level and a prelim. inventory is made collection is ready for use in my opinion #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

A3: Also, part of building relationships is to recognize when your institution is not the right place for the records. Refer! #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ryan Randall**

foureyedfour  
@foureyed4soul

@kellymce True! & that's on us librarians, too. Not sure I'd immediately think to link to campus-held archives on a subject guide. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO

#### Question 4



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

Q4 What ethical considerations does a critical archivist apply to licensing & #copyright and charging fees for reproduction? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratansy  
@eiratansy

@barnlib MPLP overview for any non-archivists here going "wtf?" [oclc.org/content/dam/re...](http://oclc.org/content/dam/re...) and Original article: [archivists.org/prof-education...](http://archivists.org/prof-education...) #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**

LNBel @LNBel

Q4 - I don't think theres much reason/justification for charging licensing fees, copyright belongs 2 creator/descendant not archive #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Allana Mayer**

@allanaaaaaa

#critlib Q4 I've heard arguments for refusing to accession materials that can't be photographed in exhibits / by researchers.



3 YEARS AGO



**Stephanie Sendaula**

@sendaulas

@foureyed4soul And that's such a good idea. @kellymce #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**

LNBel @LNBel

Q4 - I just spent hours completing a photocopy order from a researcher, you better believe I'm going to charge for my labor #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**rachel mattson**

@captain\_maybe

Q4 is i think a really complex question. open access/creative commons folks make good points abt e.g access improves value...#critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Sara A Sterkenburg**

trisarato@trisarato

@musarian million \$ Q! My A: never. "Full" processing not feasible: way we understand history evolves. But have to start somewhere #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ryan Randall**

foureyed@foureyedsoul

@lisalibrarian @kellymce @ibeilin UC Riverside's Eaton Collection (sci-fi) has apparently been considered for such other uses. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

A4 (naive question?) Why can't archives charge use fees to wealthy users like Sotheby's or Ken Burns, but not to normal people? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**rachel mattson**

@captain\_maybe

@ibeilin they often do, i think #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

@foureyedsoul Yeah - in part, because lib staff aren't cross-trained to find the stuff...which just shows how undiscoverable it is. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**rachel mattson**

@captain\_maybe

Q4 ...access=preservation, etc. but there's so much resistance to/misunderstanding abt CC at higher levels of admin #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Steve Ammidown**

stegan @stegan

Q4: even if we know we don't hold copyright, what responsibility do we have to keep current contact info for who does? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**

LNBel @LNBel

Regarding Q on donors and trust, all that should be written down in a deed of gift. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Allana Mayer**

@allanaaaaaaa

#critlib Q4 GLAM legal req to charge for only the cost of the repro. Any more is gouging -- esp. if you charge academics for fair use.



3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**

stephes@stephestellar

@allanaaaaaaa That is... just... wow. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO





**Eira Tansey**

eiratans@eiratansey

Q4 I have no issue with charging labor fees for scanning, that's about it [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

A4 For one thing, don't pretend you hold the copyright to digitized materials if you don't. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**

@deantiquate

A4: we try to avoid copyright as much as possible, though we do own it to 1 fonds which makes up bulk of our \$ generation. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Lisa Lepore**

lisaflep@lisaflepore

A4 How does charging fees affect access? How does it work with community archives? Or archives useful for communities? [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

@stephstellar @sendaulas @foureyedsoul Yeah -- it's really a systems problem at some point. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Holly Croft**

HollyCroft@HollyCroft

A4. [@ibeilin](#) In theory, I have no issue with this. But, do we have the resources to make those kinds of judgments about users? [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Sara A Sterkenburg**

trisarato@trisaratop

.@musarian Today's processed is tomorrow's sad & stodgy record. But something is better than nothing! Start w/ what we know now #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**

@deantiquate

A4: Trying to get our fee schedule public + formalized is one of our latest projects. Also making clear when/where we waive fees. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**

LNBel @LNBel

if reproduction from the archive is published, they must ask for permission, payment is copy of the publication for the library #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ryan Randall**

foureyed@foureyedsoul

@stephstellar @sendaulas @kellymce Certainly think more cross-training for discoverability would be great. For all these reasons #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

@HollyCroft Yes that would be tough, wouldn't it? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

@HollyCroft @ibeilin oooh! sliding scale?? Actually, I have seen this done -- at least in terms of commercial uses. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

@LNBel If only you were getting the money for your labor directly! #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**

stephes @stephestellar

A4 lots of archives examining their copyright practices in light of UArk case  
[blog.librarylaw.com/librarylaw/201...](http://blog.librarylaw.com/librarylaw/201...) #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Steve Ammidown**

stegan @stegan

@ibeilin to what end, though? Revenue generation? You'd get more from wealthy by having a good fundraiser #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Steven baeJuan**

MisterBooth @MisterBooth

@stegan I know of several collections where the donor's estate holds copyright & the archive has to give this info to patrons #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce @kellymce

@foureyedsoul @stephestellar @sendaulas Also to help public services staff understand use cases. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

@kellymce @HollyCroft Yes, the rich should pay more for everything, including public services like the bus and subway, no? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**  
LNBel @LNBel

Very good page on copyright/permissions in archives from [@BeineckeLibrary](https://beinecke.library.yale.edu/research/perm...)  
[beinecke.library.yale.edu/research/perm...](https://beinecke.library.yale.edu/research/perm...) #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**  
@deantiquate

Q4 we tend to waive fees for students publishing in OS academic journals or small press runs.  
#critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**  
@deantiquate

Q4 I've waived fees if patron can give me reciprocal exchange (I'll digitize the tape if you provide me with transcription). #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Amelia W. Holmes**  
@ameliawholmes

A4 [@HollyCroft](#) [@ibeilin](#) Maybe like pay-what-you-can restaurants? Charging a standard \$, but not letting that keep people out. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**  
@ibeilin

[@ameliawholmes](#) [@HollyCroft](#) The only problem with that approach is that rich people are cheap - they don't pay unless you make 'em. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**  
stephen@starphestellar

[@foureyedsoul](#) [@sendaulas](#) [@kellymce](#) Huh, that is an obvious solution that I never considered - wonder how many inst cross-train #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ryan Randall**  
foureyed@foureyedsoul

@eiratansey I know what I'm reading later! Thanks for the link! #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**  
LNBel @LNBel

@barnlib I do, indirectly, and that \$4.75 check I received today can go to buying more zines #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ryan Randall**  
foureyed@foureyedsoul

A4 >> So, to extent it seems ethical/legal/etc, perhaps consider sliding scale for fees as relevant for users/collection. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ryan Randall**  
foureyed@foureyedsoul

A4 FWIW, when I was doing MA research, fees on top of travel costs massively impacted what research I'd think about publishing >> #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Steve Ammidown**  
stegan @stegan

Q4: Also, don't let lawyers write website notices about copyright, reproduction w/out archivist input. Short & sweet. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**  
@deantiquate

A4: I've waived fees with some nontrad users of archives. "I'm glad you're here. I'll waive \$ but I want our credit line in bold." #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

There's so much more to say on all the #critlib Qs, but I really want to get to the last one...about labor!



3 YEARS AGO

## Question 5



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

Q5 How can institutions push back on unfair practices, relying heavily on volunteer, student, intern & temporary labor. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat @rowmyboat

#critlib A5 I don't know that "institutions" want to.



3 YEARS AGO



**Sara A Sterkenburg**

trisarato @trisarato

.@musarian me too! There are many complicated layers. Processing also involves good access systems & tools that resonate with users #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**

stephestellar @stephestellar

@rowmyboat Yes! I've seen C+U archives be more deliberate about item-level v MPLP. Trained personnel working w/ colls def helps too #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Allana Mayer**

@allanaaaaaa

Q5 #critlib do you mean relying on cheap labour is unfair? or that it's hard to push back when you have only cheap labour? (BOTH!?)



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

A5: Straight-up, this is the reason I am not an archivist today. I was unwilling to deal with the grueling unpaid/temp entry level. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

Q5 How can we push back on unfair institutional practices, relying heavily on volunteer, student, intern & temp labor. [#critlib](#) [@rowmyboat](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**M is for Management**

Rachel Fleming

[#critlib](#) Q5: leverage grant/endowment dollars. Talk institution talk. We need institutional dollars (for work) to make development happen.



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratans@eiratansey

Q5 There's a lot to be said for staff stability in archives -- helps with donor relations/inreach and outreach [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

[@eiratansey](#) Based on everything that's been said tonight, it seems staff stability is crucial to the whole mission of the archive. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**

LNBel @LNBel

I have fabulous intern this semester. We should try to hire the good ones. The unfair practices are from her degree prog, not me. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel

A5 ADVOCATE FOR US if you can. Don't hire unpaid labor...? Make an unpaid internship a real mentorship? [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Steve Ammidown**

stegan @stegan

Q5: zips mouth shut, throws away key. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

A5: Which I know is hilarious, because libraries do this too. Just, not to quite the same outrageous extent. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**

stephen@stephenstellar

A5 Grassroots efforts from archives staff! Demonstrate value of training/education (ie saved time), advocate for paying experts [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat@rowmyboat

[#critlib](#) Q5 I dunno, just put your foot down? Only take interns attached to classes & with an actual plan. Living wage rather than min wage.



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat@rowmyboat

[#critlib](#) Q5 In larger institutions there are probably other groups/orgs you can work with -- unions, student groups -- who do justice work.



3 YEARS AGO





**Eira Tansey**

eiratans@eiratansy

Project-funded temporary archivists are the canary in the coalmine for the adjunctification of the rest of the LIS profession, IMO [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

A5: The year-long grant-funded entry level processing gig is to archives like the Americorps year labor is to non-profits. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

Our @barnardArchivist Shannon O'Neill refused to use unpaid interns. She built a paid fellowship cuz she & @lisarnorberg r awesome. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**

stephes@stephestellar

A5 We use grants to help fund internships or, if unpaid for credit, mentor students and fashion thoughtful, educational projects [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Steve Ammidown**

stegan @stegan

@MisterBooth this was the case at my last gig as well- but we had no way of knowing how accurate/up-to-date that info was. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Holly Croft**

HollyCroft@HollyCroft

A5. Some schools REQUIRE that internships be unpaid if getting class credit. Thankfully, @uncsils isn't one of them. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

Which is to say, a good idea in theory, but one that has perhaps permanently effed up entry-level gigs in both fields. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratans@eiratans

My favorite oft-proposed rarely used tactic is don't take a Fancy Collection unless the donor agrees to fund the processing labor #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Erin O'Meara**

@diplomaticaerin

@eiratans we did that a lot at UofO. Or didn't take it until we could fundraise from other donors for the processing. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**

@ibeilin

Have archivists ever gone on strike? #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratans@eiratans

@ibeilin what do you mean? some archivists are unionized (I am in my uni's faculty union), others are not #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jennifer Dekker**

@jayeldee

@barnlib @rowmyboat it's pretty standard practice, in Canada at least, to refer to your union for this stuff. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jennifer Dekker**

@jayeldee

@ibeilin indeed i walked my first picket line in support of archivists at the candian war museum / cd. museum of civilization #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Steve Ammidown**

stegan @stegan

@ibeilin there's no record of it! harharhar #archiveshumor #gallowshumor #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratans@eiratansey

@ibeilin you may find this useful [unionlibraryworkers.blogspot.com](http://unionlibraryworkers.blogspot.com) #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Eira Tansey**

eiratans@eiratansey

@GinaMurrell1 @ibeilin [afscme.org/union/jobs-we-...](http://afscme.org/union/jobs-we-...) #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Gina Murrell**

GinaMurrell1

@eiratansey Excellent! Thanks for the link! #critlib @ibeilin



3 YEARS AGO



**Jennifer Dekker**

@jayeldee

@GinaMurrell1 @ibeilin in canada they are in the same unions as librarians, most times. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel

A5 unpaid internships in archives are a mess in NYC, I see at least 40 on our listserv every semester. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**

kellymce@kellymce

A5: A piece of this is societal: we need to value archives more, dudes. Of course, that's tough to translate directly into gigs. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel@DinahHandel

A5 and because of labor shortage, students have fear about being hired, take them on, which perpetuates unjust system #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**S. Bennett**

stephen@stephenstellar

A5 Basically I am very vocal about how and what archivists add to collections - not just about materials but what we make of them #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**

LNBel @LNBel

somehow I got my MS-LS degree in archives without a required internship, no one noticed - but I was full time archival worker #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel@DinahHandel

A5 I wish unpaid interns in archives had union representation, I have fantasies of unpaid intern walkouts. #critlib



3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat@rowmyboat

#critlib A5 And can we talk for half a second about how SAA is fairly useless?



3 YEARS AGO



**Dinah Handel**

DinahHandel @DinahHandel

@rowmyboat feel like they won't even admit its a problem! #critlib


 3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**

LNBel @LNBel

@eiratansey @barnlib I have never ever been offered a 'fancy collection' we usually even have to pay the UPS postage #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**

@deantiquate

A5: this is tricky b/c so many of our orgs operate under chronic state of pressure to raise profile to ensure continued funding. #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**

barnlib @barnlib

There should be a national unpaid intern walkout! @DinahHandel #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat @rowmyboat

#critlib A5 I've been tossing around in my mind for a while now, the idea of a sorta industrial union of NYC librarians.

 3 YEARS AGO



**Jaime, a librarian**

rowmyboat @rowmyboat

So, uh, locals, let me know. #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO



**Dr.EB**  
LNBel @LNBel

if you have to be an unpaid intern, I'd say librarians are probably the best bosses, and we will help get you employed [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Jennifer Dekker**  
@jayeldee

[@ibeilin](#) also there's a chapter in this book, [worldcat.org/title/in-solid...](http://worldcat.org/title/in-solid...) detailing a strike of librarian and archivists at a cdn uni [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**  
@ibeilin

[@jayeldee](#) Perhaps we'll have a future [#critlib](#) about librarian-archivist solidarity.



3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**  
@deantiquate

A5: I suspect maj. of people participating in [#critlib](#) are in academic settings. Not the norm. Most archives run by 1 person, FT if lucky.



3 YEARS AGO



**Anna St.Onge**  
@deantiquate

Q5: I would not dismiss the role of prof. orgs in supporting archivists working in lone arranger settings. [#critlib](#)



3 YEARS AGO



**rachel mattson**  
@captain\_maybe

Q5 tax the rich. [#critlib](#)




3 YEARS AGO


 **Jaime, a librarian**  
rowmyboat@rowmyboat


.@captain\_maybe Eat the rich. Or, to quote Lucy Parsons, "shoot or stab them." #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO


 **rachel mattson**  
@captain\_maybe

@rowmyboat right but before we do that can we make them fund the arts and libraries and archives? #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO

 **Jaime, a librarian**  
rowmyboat@rowmyboat

.@captain\_maybe Oh, I guess so. #critlib

 3 YEARS AGO

Pitches, good-byes, etc.

 **Barnard Library**  
barnlib @barnlib


Shoot--one minute left! #critlib pitches please!

 3 YEARS AGO

 **Barnard Library**  
barnlib @barnlib

Thanks everyone for participating, especially new-to-#critlib archivists! And thanks to @DinahHandel for agreeing to storify!

 3 YEARS AGO

 **Kelly McElroy**  
kellymce@kellymce

Oh, archivists, please feel free to suggest other 'chives-related topics for a future #critlib: [tinyurl.com/critlibmod](http://tinyurl.com/critlibmod)

 3 YEARS AGO



**Ian Beilin**  
@ibeilin

Submit your proposals to the [#lacuny15](#) LACUNY Institute on privacy and surveillance!  
[2015lacunyinst.commons.gc.cuny.edu](http://2015lacunyinst.commons.gc.cuny.edu) [#critlib](#)

 3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**  
kellymc@kellymce


[#critlib](#) pitch: you an still submit proposals for [#CAPAL15](#): [capalibrarians.org/capal-conferen...](http://capalibrarians.org/capal-conferen...)

 3 YEARS AGO



**Barnard Library**  
barnlib @barnlib

Thanks! [@MisterBooth](#) Kudos r 2 the [@BarnardArchives](#)-ists who r brilliant & inspirational & our boss [@lisarnorberg](#) who supports us. [#critlib](#)

 3 YEARS AGO



**Kelly McElroy**  
kellymc@kellymce

We have a special bonus [#critlib](#) \*next week\* where we'll be talking about what [#critlib](#) means and why it is important to us.

 3 YEARS AGO



**Steve Ammidown**  
stegan @stegan

Anyways, so [#critlib](#) & the piece by [@kdrabinski](#) I RTd earlier has me thinking about archives as disciplinary space, and how it hurts access.

 3 YEARS AGO