## #critlib: serving homeless library users

Storify of the #critlib chat from 2/16/2016 on serving homeless library users, moderated by @GinaMurrell1. For more information about #critlib, including past & future chats, please see http://critlib.org

[The usual disclaimer: I tried to include all of Tweets from the chat and string Tweets from the same thread together as best as I could. Retweets, favorites, & tweets without the hashtag omitted on purpose. Lacunae, misreadings, or other mistakes my own.]

#### Suggested readings:

- \* "A home to the homeless" by Ellyn Ruhlmann, from American Libraries (2014)
- \* "What do I do now? Handling challenging situations with mentally ill and homeless library users, part 2" from Infopeople (2013) (direct link to 50-minute webinar)
- \* "Not just a place to sleep: homeless perspectives on libraries in central Michigan" by Angie Kelleher, from Library **Review (2013)**



Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

Welcome to tonight's #critlib on serving homeless patrons. I'm Gina, the mod. I work at Univ of Oregon Libraries. Please introduce yourself!



#### Introductions



David J. Seleb @davidiseleb

I'm David Seleb from the Oak Park Public Library. #critlib





Nisha

cutting to ealthing the cheez

Hello! I'm Nisha, MLIS student at U of I in Champaign! #critlib





Hi, #critlib. I'm April. Academic librn in NYC.





#### Jenna Freedman

@zinelib

This is Jenna in NYC eager for tonight's #critlib on svc to homeless library users bc my LIS prof's advice was hand homeless a bar of soap.





#### **<b>\***Kate Crowe**\***

@kcrowe

Hey #critlib I'm Kate, I'm an archivist in Denver at a private uni with (to my knowledge) no focused approach to engaging w/homeless patrons



2 YEARS AGO



### S. Hackney

@fiiidget

Hi #critlib, I'm Sarah, LIS student in NYC. Mostly lurking tonight...





#### Liz McGlynn @thelizbrarian

Hi #critlib, I'm Liz, academic librn in MA/CT tho most of my perspective serving homeless comes from exp in a public lib in Chapel Hill NC.





#### Maura Smale @mauraweb

Hi #critlib, glad to be here tonight, I'm Maura and I work at an academic library in NYC, also a frequent user of the public library.





Hi #critlib folks. I'm Ryan, a community college librarian in Boise.





Hi #critlib Charissa, academic librarian in Kansas





Evan Beazley
@ebeaz

Hey #critlib I'm Evan, an LIS student in London, Ontario. Mostly here to listen and learn!





Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

Happy that so many of you are joining us for tonight's #critlib! First question is coming soon. All questions are at critlib.org/serving-homele...





Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

Arriving late to #critlib, but here we are. Greg, faculty librarian at a small academic library in Kirkland, WA!





Calle Cai

whipper@mahpipper@snapperQ

@GinaMurrell1 I'm not a librarian but I'm into zine culture &volunteer at book collectives. Also spent undergrad sleepin in the lib #critlib





Hi #critlib! Kelly here, academic librarian in Oregon. I'll be in and out, I'm doing a drop-in service for veteran students tonight.





Kaia @knsievert

Hi #critlib! I'm a new librarian/library assistant at UMN, but my interest mainly comes from past public library work. Mostly here to lurk





S. Hackney @fiiidget

I'm in @chrisalensula's Cmmnty Bldgg & Engmnt class (#LIScbe) rn, & we read abt this for class this week: bit.ly/1KoD2NC #critlib





# April Hathcock @AprilHathcock

@fiiidget @chrisalensula Wow. That article is gross. #critlib





# Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@AprilHathcock @fiiidget @chrisalensula Whenever I read "good old-fashioned common sense" I kind of want to . . . ugh. #critlib





### Ryan P. Randall @foureyedsoul

@bembrarian @AprilHathcock @fiiidget @chrisalensula Par for the course with that writer. All I've seen from him has been upsetting. #critlib





@foureyedsoul @bembrarian @AprilHathcock @fiiidget @chrisalensula that is awful. Also, "micturate"?.....? #critlib





**\*Kate Crowe \* @kcrowe**

@foureyedsoul @bembrarian @AprilHathcock @fiiidget @chrisalensula Also, our library \*is\* a bathing facility - we have a shower! #critlib





**★Kate Crowe ★**

@kcrowe

@whippersnapperQ Open whenever the library is open, it's a single unisex bathroom with a shower stall that locks & a changing table #critlib





Chris Alen Sula @chrisalensula

@AprilHathcock @fiiidget It's totally gross, and the class reading is abt inclusion in libraries. Hi #critlib! Here to listen & think





Jessica Hochman @jessicahochman

@fiiidget @chrisalensula (I'm speechless & now stress-eating a bag of licorice). Would love to hear about the ensuing class convo. #critlib





Jessica Colbert @JessicaLColbert

Hey #critlib! LIS Student @gslis. Hopefully future (radical) cataloger.





#### Jessica Hochman @jessicahochman

Hiya #critlib, I'm an LIS prof who teaches about teaching; mostly here to listen & learn.



2 YEARS AGO



Charlotte E. Price @PoorCharlotte

Hello #critlib! I'm Charlotte, an academic librarian in NYC, but most of my exp. w homeless patrons comes from my history with public libs



2 YEARS AGO



#### Sunny Kim @sunnykins

hi #critlib! LIS student. really glad to have the chance to learn more on this topic. @SPLBuzz recently hosted panel on homeless queer youth



2 YEARS AGO



#### **SLComstock** @Brarian

Hi #critlib folk. Looking forward! I'm mgr of assessment at oak park public library, among other things!



2 YEARS AGO



## CyndeeSturgisLandrum

@ComposedCitrine

Hi #critlib I'm a new public library director in IN. Formerly an Asst. Director in Oak Park, IL.



2 YEARS AGO



#### amelish @amelish

hi #critlib, student/archivist in Maryland, thinking on this as DC rolls out plan for network of homeless shelters washingtonpost.com/local/dc-polit...





+ and seeing NIMBY (etc) resistance to that, wondering how libraries will respond #critlib





amelish @amelish

Friend pointed to this piece earlier - another perspective on DC shelter plan citylab.com/cityfixer/2016... #critlib (sorry, on to Qs in a min)





Emily Lofquist @ProudPoodleMom

Hi #critlib! First time I'm able to lurk in real time. I'm a Program Coordinator at a Public Library just outside of Chicago.





Miss Fabularian @MissFabularian

Hey #critlib! Teen & Social Media Librarian here who is all about outreach, empowering underserved teens & intellectual ratchetness.





Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

OK, here we go... (don't forget to add #critlib at the end of your responses). Feel free to keep the introductions coming.



#### Q1. Does your library offer support services/outreach to homeless patrons?



Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

Q1. Does your library offer support services/outreach to homeless patrons? #critlib





At the Oak Park Public Library, we have just hired a Manager of Community Resources -- a social worker -- for outreach #critlib





#### Nisha

cuttingtaealtiegthecheez

@davidjseleb Is this a FT resource #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



David J. Seleb @davidjseleb

@cuttingthecheez Yes, the manager is full time and will begin his work on March 7 #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### Jessica Colbert

@JessicaLColbert

A1: work in academic library open to public, but no specific services or outreach despite being "public." #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



## Jessica Colbert

@JessicaLColbert

A1: although computer terminals are open to public, because federal gov docs repository #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Liz McGlynn @thelizbrarian

At nowhere I've worked so far has. I've never librn-ed in a city city, but still places w/ populations of homeless users... #critlib





A1. Not even remotely. Used to work in a public lib in urban area that also did not other than grudgingly allowing folks in. #critlib





# Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

A1. Our library welcomes and provides services to all but does not particularly reach out to the homeless. #critlib twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...





# Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@bembrarian Interestingly, a work-study student was recently homeless & we supported him during his transition to find a home. #critlib





#### Kelly McElroy @kellymce

@bembrarian I have heard of this happening in at least one other academic library. Probably happens a lot around campus. #critlib





## Joanna Gadsby

@jkgadsby

@bembrarian There was a student living in our 24 hr space and "campus" made the decision to ignore it. #shameful #critlib





#### Kat

@kittenhumyn

Following #critlib taking notes





A1.1 at a public uni library, homeless patrons are part of our user community, but because academic not seen as 'core users' #critlib





sveta @oksveta

A1.2 but this framework effectively erases university students experiencing homelessness, which is an issue in our campus #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Sunny Kim @sunnykins

@GinaMurrell1 #critlib I'm still learning about the systems around me but I know @SPLBuzz partners with social service agencies to reach yth



2 YEARS AGO



Joanna Gadsby @jkgadsby

Chiming in late from Bmore. Working in acad lib that does no outreach but hosts many homeless patrons daily. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Kelly McElroy @kellymce

A1: Not explicitly, nope. Dunno how often we get questions at ref/circ that end up being referrals. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Kelly McElroy @kellymce

A1: comm'ty users can use computers, and get a lib card -- but you need an address (and/or driver's license) to get the card. #critlib





#### Kat

@kittenhumyn

Yes! Is there any way to combat this? #critlib twitter.com/kellymce/statu...



2 YEARS AGO



#### Kelly McElroy @kellymce

.@kittenhumyn apparently in OR, you can get an ID w/a "descriptive address" but still a lot of barriers. #critlib oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/pages...



2 YEARS AGO



#### Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

@kittenhumyn Yes. Some libraries are allowing homeless patrons to use a shelter address when applying for a library card. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Christie Kliewer @christielouwho

@GinaMurrell1 @kittenhumyn we accept shelter addresses and corrections facilitiess for patrons at our public library (large system) #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### Charlotte E. Price @PoorCharlotte

@kittenhumyn at my mum's library, patrons could present a letter from a shelter in lieu of driver's license. Not perfect solution #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### **April Hathcock** @AprilHathcock

Public lib where I used to work also did this. & shelters/PO boxes wldn't count. I'd sign ppl up anyway. #critlib twitter.com/kellymce/statu...





Yes to signing up people w/out an address! Should be resistance-as-policy for undocumented people as well. #critlib twitter.com/AprilHathcock/...





# Guadalupe Colín @colin\_gpe

@zinelib #critlib assuring them that the library doesn't track them or anything of the sort is helpful too!





Ryan P. Randall @foureyedsoul

@colin\_gpe @zinelib I wouldn't have thought to emphasize that. Thank you! #critlib





#### amelish @amelish

+++ something all of our patrons should in theory be concerned about! #critlib twitter.com/colin\_gpe/stat...





#### Calle Cai

whipper@mahpipper@snapperQ

@amelish Tho being homeless means ur constantly being harassed by police & tracked in so many ways that this is just one instance. #critlib





### amelish @amelish

yes so let's extra not be like that. #critlib twitter.com/whippersnapper...





A1: We don't, which I think is prob not uncommon for acad libs, even those open to the neighborhood. #critlib





Maura Smale @mauraweb

A1: The college where I work for sure has svcs for homeless students, tho we've not worked w/those offices directly that I know of. #critlib





Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@mauraweb How open is your library to the neighborhood? What does that look like? Do a lot of non-academic folks use your lib? #critlib





Maura Smale @mauraweb

@bembrarian Technically open but in prac don't get much neighb use, ID req to enter bldg w/lib = discourages (+ pub lib is nearby). #critlib





Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@mauraweb Woah. ID required to enter the library's building? That's very closed, IMHO. #critlib





Maura Smale @mauraweb

@bembrarian Not the lib but the campus, we're w/in a bldg w/other uses. ID req is standard across CUNY afaik. #critlib





#### Jessica Hochman @jessicahochman

@bembrarian @mauraweb same at my inst, but the only seem to ask on weekends. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Maura Smale @mauraweb

@jessicahochman @bembrarian Yah, there's scanning in/signing in to get into all of the college buildings at MPOW. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Guadalupe Colín

@colin\_gpe

in a reference class while following #critlib inception?



2 YEARS AGO



### Charissa Powell

@CharissaAPowell

A1 Not to my knowledge...but there is also not a large homeless population in my town #critlib twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...



2 YEARS AGO



### **SLComstock**

@Brarian

Naperville library trained staff in social work srvcs to recognize broad spectrum: not 'homeless' but 'unhomed'. Mental health key #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Jenna Freedman

@zinelib

@Brarian How intense is the training? Does it address systemic oppression? Is there certification? Is there staff resistance? #critlib





Nisha

cutting to ealth eagth echeez

@Brarian Wow, I have never heard that term. Really interesting. I wonder how this "works" compared to hiring a social worker. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Liz McGlynn @thelizbrarian

@Brarian what gets me upset is librns aren't soc workers! No one benefits from that arrangement/more passing the buck #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Guadalupe Colín @colin\_qpe

@thelizbrarian @Brarian #critlib exactly! we don't know how to help. If there's no funding for a social worker, libraries should do training



2 YEARS AGO



**SLComstock** @Brarian

@thelizbrarian Agreed. Naperville initiative a triage approach based on who sees spectrum of community. @davidjseleb wise #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



**<b>\***Kate Crowe**\*** 

@kcrowe

At not explicitly, nope (again, private university, but as others have pointed out, open terminals due to gov't depository status). #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

Judging by the answers to Q1, it seems services for homeless patrons at most libraries are sorely lacking. Sad (but not shocking). #critlib





### CyndeeSturgisLandrum

@ComposedCitrine

A1: Not currently, but it is an on-going discussion. Since I'm new to my role, it's something I'll be assessing for the future. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### amelish @amelish

A1 Working in special collections, no. Main library open to public until 12a then ID checks. Lobby remains open 24-7. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



## Guadalupe Colín

@colin\_gpe

@amelish this also happens at the library I used to work. The rules are even harsher during finals. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### amelish

@amelish

. @colin\_gpe To be fair, I only pull late nights to work on my own finals. Maybe more lenient (no checks?) the rest of the time #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Jenna Freedman

@zinelib

A1: my private urban women's college library doesn't explicitly offer svc to homeless. tbh I can't imagine what that wd look like. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### Jenna Freedman

A1: just realized that our open guest wireless network provides service to homeless, if they have a smart phone. #critlib





@zinelib Yes! That is hyoooge here in NYC I think - I see loads of folks using wifi outside the BPL, CUNY GC, etc. #critlib





## April Hathcock @AprilHathcock

A2 Our lib is locked down so you can't even get in w/o ID. So no homeless at all. And we are in New York City. So...yeah. :( #critlib





## Charlotte E. Price @PoorCharlotte

A1 (from my mum, who was in a city library): None in specific, they could go to any services/classes offered. Budget cuts, tho... #critlib





Ryan P. Randall @foureyedsoul

A1 As a comm. coll., we have "retention alerts" for students with variety of issues. Have used when students w/ housing insecurity #critlib





Ryan P. Randall @foureyedsoul

A1.1 Housing insecurity can affect your highly regular patrons, even your student workers, without being very obvious. #critlib



Q2. Does your library have policies that prohibit behaviors often associated with homelessness?



## Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

On to Q2: Does your library have policies that prohibit behaviors often associated with homelessness? #critlib





A2 (from my mum): Yes. Had rules for behavior, made sure the homeless knew. Rules like no unaccompanied adults in children's area #critlib





#### Nisha

cuttingtaealtiegthecheez

@PoorCharlotte How are the homeless identified though? Is it a "warning" of the rules based upon appearance? #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Charlotte E. Price @PoorCharlotte

@cuttingthecheez I believe they worked with the shelters and/or food kitchens on that #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



## Charlotte E. Price

@PoorCharlotte

A2.2 (for mum) other rules: No public drunkenness. No fighting. Just the general behavior policies that everyone had to follow. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



## Charlotte E. Price

@PoorCharlotte

A2.3 (from my mum) No state ID needed to get library card - homeless could present a letter from a shelter in lieu of I.D. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@PoorCharlotte Curious to think about perceptions/prejudice re: homelessness as relating to substances and violence. #critlib





A2: Late night hours, you have to have a campus ID to be in the building. #critlib





# April Hathcock @AprilHathcock

A2. Yes. MFPOW at public lib didn't allow washing in bathrooms or SLEEPING. Sigh. That was a prob for everyone. #critlib





# April Hathcock @AprilHathcock

A2. This public lib was in central FL. So lots of old folks. So sleeping in library was kind of a thing for everyone. #critlib





# CyndeeSturgisLandrum @ComposedCitrine

A2: Unfortunately! #critlib





### David J. Seleb @davidjseleb

@GinaMurrell1 My library has Rules of Behavior, but has tried to avoid rules that "prohibit homelessness" such as "no sleeping" #critlib





#### Kaia @knsievert

A2 My public library had a no sleeping rule framed as a health concern #critlib





A2 We're really open in our lib & haven't developed many antagonistic policies, except against noise & sex. #critlib twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...





amelish @amelish

aiii #critlib happening so fast. Anyone have collections representing / documenting homelessness? Outreach could use a broad base...



2 YEARS AGO



Liz McGlynn @thelizbrarian

A2 we had a no sleeping rule that I usually didn't enforce. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@thelizbrarian @jkgadsby "Excuse me, you're not allowed to sleep here." "I'm not sleeping, I'm resting my eyes." #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Miss Fabularian @MissFabularian

A2: if you want a library card, you must have an address establishing you within the library's city. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



**Emily Lofquist** @ProudPoodleMom

A1: No... V wealthy and V small suburb. To my knowledge we do not have any resources in our direct community for the homeless. #critlib





@bembrarian @PoorCharlotte How does the general public, and how do inst. admin. define homelessness? What are defined stereotypes? #critlib





Jessica Colbert @JessicaLColbert

A2: must be affiliated to use printers #critlib





Jessica Colbert @JessicaLColbert

A2: For non-affiliated borrowing card, MUST present ID AND current address. #critlib





Nisha

cuttingtaealtiegthecheez

A2. I wonder what the implications would be to use the library as a home address? #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@cuttingthecheez I'm reminded of the first season of Portlandia w/ the hide and seek legend who lives under the lib's stairs. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



sveta @oksveta

A2.1 we have a number..including some that truly reflect our lack of meaningful programs/infrastructure to address homelessness #critlib





A2.2 ie generalized policy to address very specific "problem patrons" or broader to discourage certain groups of users #critlib





Liz McGlynn @thelizbrarian

We'd let anyone who had some form of ID (tho still prohibitive) get a computer pass. Had to have an address to check out books #critlib





Charissa Powell

@Charissa A Powell

A2) just skimmed our policies and nothing jumps out at me... #critlib





Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

In theory, #libraries are welcoming to all. Unfortunately, there are many policies keeping access from the homeless. #critlib





SLComstock @Brarian

@zinelib CITY of Naperville supported/paid 4 training to leverage. oak park library @davidjseleb took it on based in #community #critlib





Sunny Kim @sunnykins

#critlib here's a question: how do these anti-homeless policies get applied? are there patterns of racial bias in enforcement?





@sunnykins abbbb. sooo. luuuute. lyyyyy. #critlib





April Hathcock @AprilHathcock

Good Q. Esp given many homeless are ex-cons and most incarcerated are black and brown men. #critlib twitter.com/sunnykins/stat...





# CyndeeSturgisLandrum @ComposedCitrine

A2: always wondered how you enforce a no sleeping policy objectively. Ppl perceived to be homeless can't sleep, but babies are ok? #critlib





# Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@ComposedCitrine Are babies allowed to sleep in the library? #critlib





#### Jessica Hochman @jessicahochman

@bembrarian @ComposedCitrine seems like a win-win when babies sleep in the library ;)
#critlib





# \*Kate Crowe\* @kcrowe

@ComposedCitrine seriously, especially at a uni library. There is no acad. library not constantly filled with people sleeping. #critlib





@kcrowe @ComposedCitrine Lots of sleeping students at my uni library every single day! #critlib





#### Emily Lofquist @ProudPoodleMom

A2: Must have a home address within the village to get a libcard -- which is also used at times for program registration #critlib





#### Jessica @schomi

A2 We bring in Affirmative Action to help with "problem patrons" since they're likely to be students or employees #critlib





#### Jessica @schomj

A2 But while we do have homeless students, my impression is that they're more likely to sleep than cause problems #critlib



Q3. What kind of staff training, if any, does the library provide in serving homeless patrons?



### Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

Q3. What kind of staff training, if any, does the library provide in serving homeless patrons? #critlib





#### Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

A3. None. Though if there was an identified homeless population that used our lib., we would do training. #critlib twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...





@bembrarian Paradigm-wise, it seems like a lot of libs could be more proactive in identifying potential homeless using their lib. #critlib





# Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@bembrarian In a positive, service-providing way, of course. #critlib





# April Hathcock @AprilHathcock

A3 The only training we got in public lib was "Here's a whistle. Use it if a homeless person gets creepy in the stacks." #critlib





# April Hathcock @AprilHathcock

I still have that stupid whistle. #critlib





#### S. Hackney @fiiidget

implicitly reinforcing negative stereotypes abt homelessness is crappy & dehumanizing & hurts everyone. >:( #critlib twitter.com/AprilHathcock/...





# Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@AprilHathcock Oh jesus. #critlib





A3: GAs got "disruptive patron" training. included white man doing black stereotype for homeless patron. Some of us were furious. #critlib





Liz McGlynn @thelizbrarian

@JessicaLColbert I'm fighting for the day when "disruptive patron"/"problem patron" gets stricken from the librarian vocab. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Jessica Hochman @jessicahochman

@JessicaLColbert yikes. Anybody report that? #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Jessica Colbert @JessicaLColbert

@jessicahochman Yes. A group of us are working to change the videos used. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Jessica Hochman @jessicahochman

@JessicaLColbert that's so awesome. Hey, #critlib could make better videos with a critical/culturally responsive perspective.



2 YEARS AGO



Ryan P. Randall @foureyedsoul

@JessicaLColbert @jessicahochman That's in a \*\*\*\*ing video? It was deliberate & considered? My jaw's literally hanging open. #critlib





@foureyedsoul @jessicahochman Yes. Was originally used for RA training (homeless person in dorm). #critlib





Ryan P. Randall @foureyedsoul

@JessicaLColbert @jessicahochman I won't type them here, but I'd have \_words\_ with whomever made these choices. #critlib





Jessica Colbert @JessicaLColbert

@foureyedsoul @jessicahochman First, I was mad a COP #acab was speaking to us about deescalation #critlib





### Jessica Colbert @JessicaLColbert

@foureyedsoul @jessicahochman And then some of us talked to HR about it, and the police chief agreed to have us work to change them #critlib





#### Jessica Hochman @jessicahochman

@JessicaLColbert @foureyedsoul that's super cool; it's great you spoke up and real change is happening! #critlib





Ryan P. Randall @foureyedsoul

@jessicahochman @JessicaLColbert Seriously. I'm impressed. Thank you for doing, especially as I assume it wasn't comfortable/easy. #critlib





@foureyedsoul @jessicahochman I think all three of us who spoke up also have mental illnesses, which was also in the training #critlib





# Charlotte E. Price @PoorCharlotte

A3 (From mum) workshops on difficult patrons in general. police gave training on deescalation (lots of addiction issues, violence) #critlib





#### SLComstock @Brarian

Key thing is that #communityinformatics informed @davidjseleb leadership w/@ComposedCitrine to respond to documented need. #critlib





David J. Seleb @davidjseleb

@GinaMurrell1 That's one of the objectives for our new manager, to determine the appropriate staff training needed #critlib





#### **<b>\***Kate Crowe**\***

@kcrowe

A3 not to my knowledge, but our Access Librarian was a bartender/bouncer, he is fabulous at de-escalation. He should do a training! #critlib





Liz McGlynn @thelizbrarian

A3 generic deescalation training from HR (which was honestly a total nightmare) #critlib





Nisha

cuttingtonealtheagthecheez

@thelizbrarian Yes, I think "deescalation" is subjective in practice. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

I'm finding your answers to Q3 esp interesting; I think workshops on serving homeless users would help. But respect for all is key. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Calle Cai

whipper@mahpipper@snapperQ

@GinaMurrell1 Yes, trainings are important but smtms seen as delivered solution, rather than small step towards real respect & care #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Liz McGlynn @thelizbrarian

@whippersnapperQ @GinaMurrell1 SUCH an important point! #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

@whippersnapperQ Respect & care - just treating the homeless as human beings - should be basic. Sadly, oftentimes it's not. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



CyndeeSturgisLandrum

@ComposedCitrine

A3: Training related to dealing w/difficult patrons but nothing yet to engage with patrons facing homelessness. I got work to do. #critlib





#### Jeanette Wallace

alegriar chilestriar chivist

It seems like the only training libraries give regarding homelessness is negative. Eg:how to deal with "problem patrons" #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### **Evan Beazley** @ebeaz

@alegriarchivist Agreed. Where are these perceptions coming from? Is it systemic? Societal? #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Jeanette Wallace

alegriar@hileistriarchivist

@ebeaz A lot of people who are homeless suffer from mental illness too, and there's still a lot of stigma associated with that. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@alegriarchivist Are there any open trainings like these available online? Would love to experience something so negative! #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Jenna Freedman

@zinelib

A3: There could b labor issues to discuss. Perspectives vary by job bc sometimes librarians decide & support staff have to enforce. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Maura Smale @mauraweb

@zinelib Yup. We've done some all-library worker workshops but doesn't change that support staff on svc desks more than lib fac. #critlib





(Aside) is it exceptional to say that all the librarians I work with are tolerant, inclusive, and respectful? #critlib





#### Andrea Snyder @alsnyder02

I focus trainings on reducing barriers for all, social service & community resources. Generally not specially on homelessness #Critlib





#### Kat

@kittenhumyn

does your library have specific programming for homeless patrons? #critlib





#### Kat

@kittenhumyn

@kittenhumyn if your library does have srvcs for homeless patrons, are they included in the brainstorming/planning in any way? #critlib





#### Emily Lofquist @ProudPoodleMom

A3: recently watched this webinar w/ staff bit.ly/1TpKnz1 our "challenging patrons" are rowdy kids not homeless #critlib



Q4. What role should the library have in providing support services to homeless patrons?



## Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

Q4. What role should the library have in providing support services to homeless patrons? #critlib





#critlib partnering with local organizations that help them can be useful.



This is a great video lecture from a practitioner. A Librarian's Guide to Homelessness #critlib youtu.be/FYiEEhhrFh4



MANDREA SNYDER @ALSNYDER02 - 2 YEARS AGO



#### Nisha

cuttingthealthingthecheez

@alsnydero2 Thanks for the resource! #critlib



years ago



Jessica Hochman 👢 @jessicahochman

@alsnydero2 thanks for sharing this! #critlib





#### alex hanam

#### haname@ihanamerino

aah! I'm late to #critlib after reminding my fellow MLISers today! i'm Alex, acad lib worker, MLIS student, mostly watching & learning tn



2 YEARS AGO



#### **SLComstock** @Brarian

We in LIS need to face our discourses: "homeless" as proxy. Community colleges, state, public library: we are natural supports #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



## **April Hathcock**

@AprilHathcock

A4 Treat them as a patron base rather than a problem area. Develop services/programming tailored to their needs. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



## **April Hathcock**

@AprilHathcock

Also remembering that we are libs. We provide info, not solutions. Refer but don't try to overdo. Bad for everyone. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### amelish @amelish

. @AprilHathcock Seems hard (if worth it) to draw a line and know whether that line is about what's best for library, patrons, libs #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

A4. I like the idea of being open/transparent re: providing the services, to positively influence others. #critlib twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...





#### Guadalupe Colín @colin\_gpe

#critlib I've seen homeless people volunteer at the library as well. The library is their home so there should be more resources to help!



2 YEARS AGO



#### Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@colin\_gpe Partnership is key, gaining new perspectives. Being a leader but not the only leader. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### **<b>\***Kate Crowe**\***

@kcrowe

A4 This is hyperlocal, but I've discussed working w fac member who does outreach in homeless comm/soc services on oral hist project #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### **<b>\***Kate Crowe**\***

@kcrowe

@kcrowe A4 both with service providers & people in homeless community. We haven't figured out \*how\* yet tho. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Andrea Snyder

@alsnyder02

While not all libs will be able to provide social services on site, all should know of the community orgs & be able to do referrals #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### CyndeeSturgisLandrum

@ComposedCitrine

Q4: creating services/programs with patrons experiencing homelessness. Love quote from Oak Park's new social worker on this #critlib





#### David J. Seleb @davidjseleb

@GinaMurrell1 I see our role as part of broad community engagement, working with partners. Welcome, engage, identify, guide, refer. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### Guadalupe Colín @colin\_gpe

@davidjseleb @GinaMurrell1 #critlib and we we shouldn't be reinforcing negative stereotypes.





### Jessica @schomj

A4 Our homeless users are probably students, so getting them info for campus or community services seems key + #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Jessica @schomj

A4 that said, we haven't done any targeted outreach and I'm not sure if we'd get much uni support (don't pull back the curtain) #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



#### Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@schomj If at a uni, there must be a committee that deals with homelessness on some level (beyond the library)??? #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### Jessica @schomj

@bembrarian not to my knowledge, but I think a lot of that work is done quietly by diversity, VA, other offices #critlib





#### Ryan P. Randall @foureyedsoul

@schomj @bembrarian We use retention alerts & individual counselor appointments at MPOW. Maybe advocate for similar there if poss.? #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Jessica @schomj

@foureyedsoul @bembrarian Our whole advising system is borked. Campus initiative to fix it is in progress, but... #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



sveta @oksveta

#critilb A4 as uni lib, i get that many of our services are for affiliates... but v important to treat everyone who comes in w/respect +



2 YEARS AGO



## sveta

@oksveta

#critlib A4.2 & recognize that housing insecurity effects our whole community, including those who are formally affiliated with the uni



2 YEARS AGO



#### sveta

@oksveta

#critlib A4.3 how we treat those who are visibly homeless (or so we presume) impacts/reflect/reinforces overall culture of the institution



2 YEARS AGO



## CyndeeSturgisLandrum

@ComposedCitrine

A4: Dallas public was doing some great podcast programs w/ homeless patrons a while back #critlib





A4 I (and mum) agree respect 1st off. working with city services to have counsellors on hand several x a week can also help #critlib





### Andrea Snyder

@alsnyder02

When working in Baltimore, I made sure that I knew the major service providers so I could confidently tell ppl about the services. #Critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### alex hanam

haname@ihanamerino

library goals from #critlib: do better! twitter.com/kcrowe/status/...



2 YEARS AGO



### **<b>\***Kate Crowe**\***

@kcrowe

protip: frame it as a service for bike commuters. :) #critlib twitter.com/hanamerino/sta...



2 YEARS AGO



### amelish

@amelish

A4 Partnerships with other organizations and individuals important to homeless patrons - in case we forgot, not a monolith #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### amelish

@amelish

A4 but also learning more about homeless patrons w/o violating privacy seems like a starting point (others have mentioned) #critlib





A4 something I can do better personally is speak up when meetings take a turn toward the disrespectful and venting becomes..more #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Liz McGlynn @thelizbrarian

Having the right attitude is step 1 and sadly not everyone is so inclusive/empathetic as #critlib, even in libraries



2 YEARS AGO



Kaia @knsievert

A4 At public lib, I attended meetings our local coalition for homeless persons (consisting of local service agencies) #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Kaia @knsievert

A4 it was great for keeping on top of places/service for referrals. If I could go back, I would try to expand this 2 more outreach #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

This is a fantastic idea. Going to add it to my docket of things to do this week. :D Thank you! #critlib twitter.com/knsievert/stat...



2 YEARS AGO



**<b>\***Kate Crowe**\*** 

A4 question for the acad librarians - do any of you have MSW programs you partner w on this? #critlib





@kcrowe We don't, but maybe we could. We've hosted discussions w/the counseling folks & lib staff tho not specific to homelessness. #critlib





#### Nisha

cuttingtaealtiegthecheez

A4. I support library-initiatives. It makes, but I wonder what libs would do if SE issues were dealt with. How would role change? #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### **SLComstock** @Brarian

Women & children are high risk: studies show domestic violence as driver toward "homelessness". Libraries offer digital safety too #critlib





### **SLComstock** @Brarian

@bembrarian digital safety means we are able to seek resources: health, financial etc without domestic violence perps' eyes #critlib





### T. Sullivan @thomthomthom

@Brarian queer youth too #critlib





### CyndeeSturgisLandrum

@ComposedCitrine

A4: whatever we do we can't assume ppl want what we or others prescribe as "help" #critlib





@ComposedCitrine Good point. This is where diverse perspectives (including, ideally, representation from the homeless) helps. #critlib





### Emily Lofquist @ProudPoodleMom

A4: Host services onsite (provided by community experts). My lib has vet & senior resource reps avail. monthly for 1011 assistance #critlib



### Q5. What can libraries do to better serve homeless patrons?



### Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

OK, final question! Q5. What can libraries do to better serve homeless patrons? #critlib





Etta Verma @ettaverma

@GinaMurrell1 I bet helping them to get ID would help #critlib





David J. Seleb @davidjseleb

@GinaMurrell1 A5: Recognize them. #critlib





### Jessica Hochman @jessicahochman

In NYC, sleeping was just outlawed on the subway, which imo relies on assumptions abt sleepers similar to those we're discussing. #critlib





@jessicahochman I did not know that! I am (too) often sleeping on the subway, but I'm sure I'm not who this is targeting! #critlib





Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

@jessicahochman Wow! Every NYer has fallen asleep on the subway (long day at work, drunk, lack of sleep, etc.) not just homeless. #critlib





Maura Smale @mauraweb

@jessicahochman Thumbs way down, CUNY students have told me they sleep while commuting on the subway (as we all do, right?). #critlib





Jessica Hochman @jessicahochman

@mauraweb imo targeting sleepers is a form of profiling. It's assigning a particular signification to the practice of sleeping #critlib





Jessica @schomj

A5 Helping students financially is part of why my boss is pushing the library to play a role in OA textbooks #critlib





April Hathcock

@AprilHathcock

A5 Continuing to have these convos. Thinking critically. Acting thoughtfully. #critlib





### Guadalupe Colín @colin\_gpe

in some universities you can get a masters in SW along with your masters in LIS. maybe they should have this option in every uni. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### Andrea Snyder @alsnyder02

#Critlib learn about ALL of your community. Constantly work to reduce barriers. Practice empathy. Be kind. Do your best.



2 YEARS AGO



amelish @amelish

oh the incorrigible humanity... of librarians and our patrons. As it should be #critlib twitter.com/alsnydero2/sta...



2 YEARS AGO



#### Jeanette Wallace

alegriarchileistriarchivist

A5 at the very least, offering information about resources that are available to them is important. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### Liz McGlynn @thelizbrarian

A5 whoops I skipped ahead 1. But yeah. 1st off see them as a population w/ needs just like everyone else. Don't "prob patron" them. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### CyndeeSturgisLandrum

@ComposedCitrine

A5: see them. make them visible. understand homelessness is a condition NOT who a person is. engage #critlib





A5. Great question. Simple & short, but: have more conversations. Be more mindful of what's not being done. #critlib twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...





#### Calle Cai

whipper@mahpipper@snapperQ

@bembrarian Yes, re: having conversations. Library can be space where homeless patrons can connect with dignity; creative programs. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Ryan P. Randall @foureyedsoul

A5 Starting from the position that our unhoused patrons are \_patrons\_, then figuring out how to work with them for \_their\_ needs. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



**SLComstock** @Brarian

@foureyedsoul and "their" needs are \*ours\*. Seriously. Many are one step away from being there. Empathy key. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Ryan P. Randall @foureyedsoul

@Brarian Yes! Empathy!! Didn't mean to pose relationship as a simple "us/them," more meant "help patrons act on own behalf" #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



## **SLComstock**

@foureyedsoul all's good: I am behind you on how challenging our dichotomies are. Keep up the good fight! #critlib





A5 Hard question. mpow's vision statement: "grt private uni dedicated to the public good" but outreach is in msw, other acad prog. #critlib





#### Nisha

cuttingtaealtiegthecheez

A5. We need to interrogate ourselves & our discourse. Use open-ended ?s. Cater to them instead of making them accommodate to us. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### **Annie Pho** @catladylib

Also, sorry for tuning in late to #critlib. Looks like @GinaMurrell1 moderated a great chat!



2 YEARS AGO



### **SLComstock** @Brarian

oak park last yr staff day domestic shelter was part of community \*IN reach\*. Very popular among staff cuz we SEE survivors often #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### CyndeeSturgisLandrum

@ComposedCitrine

A5: always loved how @davidjseleb handled complaints abt homeless patrons. Forced others 2 acknowledge their humanity #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### Jessica Colbert @JessicaLColbert

A5: Ask about their needs and wants. #critlib





Yes. And then respect them. Don't be patronizng. Maybe they just want a DVD and don't want a social worker. #critlib twitter.com/JessicaLColber...





sveta @oksveta

@AprilHathcock :nods: This speaks to how much even "progressive" convos about homelessness rely on stereotypes #critlib





**Emily Lofquist** @ProudPoodleMom

A5: Accept a shelter (or willing organization in community) as their home address for lib card #critlib



### Wrapping up with thank yous & #critpitches!



Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

This has been such an incredible #critlib chat that I almost hate to wrap things up. Any final thoughts?





Nisha

cuttingthealthingthecheez

@GinaMurrell1 This was great! Thank YOU! I love having #critlib on the mind:)



2 YEARS AGO



Jenna Freedman @zinelib

#critlib pitch--Apply to be the Dean at mpow. I want a #critlib boss at @barnlib. careers.barnard.edu/postings/2020





### Jessica Hochman @jessicahochman

Thank you, @GinaMurrell1! GREAT topic, super lively and thoughtful discussion. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



### Guadalupe Colín @colin\_gpe

@GinaMurrell1 #critlib talking about these topics can help bring changes to libraries, however small they may be!



2 YEARS AGO



#### Jeanette Wallace

alegriar@hileistriarchivist

This was my first #critlib chat. And a very important topic.



2 YEARS AGO



### Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

@alegriarchivist Hope to see you in a future #critlib. They get better and better!



2 YEARS AGO



### **April Hathcock** @AprilHathcock

Great #critlib! Thanks @GinaMurrell1!



2 YEARS AGO



### Jessica Colbert @JessicaLColbert

@GinaMurrell1 Excellent #critlib! Gonna really start seeing how I can change things at my academic lib.



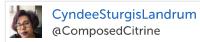
2 YEARS AGO



### amelish @amelish

Thanks @GinaMurrell1 & everyone for so much to think on. Good to be back #critlib





Thanks @GinaMurrell1 great #critlib!





Gina Murrell
@GinaMurrell1

Thank you all for participating in tonight's #critlib on serving homeless library patrons! Do we have any volunteers to Storify this chat?





sveta @oksveta

.@GinaMurrell1 I can Storify. It's been a few months since the last time. Thanks for a really great chat! #critlib





Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

@oksveta Thank you! And thanks again everyone for taking time out from your busy schedules to discuss this very important topic. #critlib





Maura Smale @mauraweb

Such a terrific #critlib chat tonight, thanks so much @GinaMurrell1 and everyone!





Kelly McElroy
@kellymce

Hooray for @GinaMurrell1 for moderating an excellent #critlib!





Here's my #critlib #critpitch: Some thoughts on IRB and vulnerable populations (like prisoners & homeless). aprilhathcock.wordpress.com/2016/02/16/som...





# Greg Bem, MLIS @bembrarian

Make sure y'all invite your librarian friends to the next one! The more the merrier at #critlib





### T. Sullivan @thomthomthom

#critlib thanks for the wonderful convo, lurked and chatted with a classmate as we watched on the IQ Wall





### SLComstock @Brarian

Thank you so much for this topic. Soooo real. #critlib





### Paul Jewell @pdjewell

Catch stories now at #critlib on serving homeless library users @GinaMurrell1 steering. ALL #library workers WELCOME critlib.org/serving-homele...





# T. Sullivan @thomthomthom

thank you @GinaMurrell1 for moderating this discussion #critlib





Thanks for such an amazing #critlib tonight. Looking forward to reflecting on the issues that were raised. Can't wait for the next one!





### Kelly McElroy

@kellymce

Super interested in this -- anyone do this combo? #critlib twitter.com/colin\_gpe/stat...





# Guadalupe Colín @colin\_gpe

@kellymce #critlib if anyone is interested, dominican has this option. I don't know anybody who's done it though. :( socialwork.dom.edu/academics/msw-...





### SLComstock @Brarian

@GinaMurrell1 You. Are. Awesome! Thank you! #critlib





# Lisa Hinchliffe @lisalibrarian

Sorry I missed #critlib; my #critpitch is that we in academia act on fact that some of our students+their families are homeless, hungry, etc





## Lisa Hinchliffe @lisalibrarian

And that we acknowledge that some of our staff are too bc wages are low and employment precarious. #critlib twitter.com/lisalibrarian/...





Thx @davidjseleb and @ComposedCitrine for fighting good fight. Walk the talk: it is all we can do #critlib



Fin.