#critlib 2016-03-07: white gloves

Storify of the March 7 2016 #critlib chat “you don’t have to wear white gloves: critical approaches to rare books”, moderated by @ForgetTheMaine. For more info about #critlib, including past and future chats, visit critlib dot org.

Preliminaries

No #critlib chat tonight. It’s next week, & we’ll discuss critical approaches to #rarebooks. critlib.org/white-gloves/ pic.twitter.com/qJhUjKAXac

JENNA FREEDMAN @ZINELIB · 2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

Today! Join us for a chat on #critlib approaches to rare books, modded by @ForgetTheMaine. 11am Pacific/2pm Eastern. critlib.org/white-gloves/

2 YEARS AGO

rust belt babe

also @ForgetTheMaine is doin’ a #critlib about rare books today at 2 PM Eastern holllllaaaaa critlib.org/white-gloves/

2 YEARS AGO
Looking forward 2pm #rare books #critlib chat

Melissa Hubbard
@melissa_hubbard

#critlib on #rarebooks starting at 2pm! Join me, @RBMSinfo folks!

Introductions

Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

Hey all in #critlib land! Let's get the ball rolling on critical rare booking with introductions! I'm Dylan, rare book student at illinois!

Rebecca
@DerangeDescribe

I'm Rebecca, I do archives/digital stuff. Mostly here to read + learn #critlib

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

Hi #critlib, I'm a cataloger at an academic library in the middle of Minnesota. I've done some #rarebooks cataloging, excited for the topic!

Melissa Hubbard
@melissa_hubbard

I'm Melissa. I'm a rare book librarian and a manager. This is my first #critlib as an active participant (I hope).
Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

Hi #critlib folks! I'm Lynne. I do pop culture archiving in DeKalb, IL. mostly lurking today. :-) 2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

I have skimmed #critlib convos before, but never participated. 2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

Also, I'm one of the folks that runs the @RBMSinfo feed. #critlib 2 YEARS AGO

Katy Rawdon
@lemurchild

I'm Katy, longtime archivist, currently working with both archives and rare books. And eating lunch. :-) #critlib 2 YEARS AGO

Donna Witek
@donnarosemary

Excited to listen/lurk the #critlib chat starting now about rare books, mod: @ForgetTheMaine (my intro: acad #infolit lib*n in libarts uni📚) 2 YEARS AGO

Amanda M Meeks
Acorn Electric

Hi #critlib! I'm excited about today's chat on rare books. I'll be mostly lurking, but will jump in as I can. 2 YEARS AGO
Patrick Williams @activitystory

hi #critlib! I’m patrick, a humanities subject specialist in an academic library who does a lot of teaching in/with special collections

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Coulston @melissamsnc

Melissa here, new grad and prepping for #ARLISVRA2016. Excited to lurk/lunch on this one! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate @marccold

Good afternoon, #critlib! It's actually kind of warm here in MI today... I'm a cataloger who's eating lunch (not near any rare books rn).

2 YEARS AGO

David Howard @Quasifesto

Hi #critlib this is my first chat! Probably just lurk since I'm working th reference desk. Serials librarian at small academic library.

2 YEARS AGO

Kate Kitchens @Infinity_Dots

Hi #critlib! I'm just lurking as well. Instruction librarian at university of Dubuque. Just curious about rare books!

2 YEARS AGO

Dr.EB @LNBel

Hi #critlib popping in a bit late. A1- I did rare books specialization at Columbia Lib. School, now a spec coll librarian at CUNY

2 YEARS AGO
also i'm kelly, eating mac and cheese while trying to keep it from the nosy dog #critlib

Hey #critlib I'm a cc Instruction & Outreach Lib'n. Mostly lurking & hoping to read convos later! Thanks to @ForgetTheMaine for the topic!

Hi I'm Mel library student focused on digital preservation, here to listen & learn. Thanks, #critlib!

Joining in for #critlib on rare books! I'm a research services librarian at a pretty diverse spec coll lib, so work w/rare books & more

(dropping in kinda late, Jaime, systems in independent research archives/library, NYC #critlib)

Q1. Tell everyone about your experience with rare books, if any. Were you allowed/encouraged to handle the materials?
Dylan Burns  
@ForgetTheMaine

A1. I will say that I hadn't really touched rare books prior to library school #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Hubbard  
@melissa_hubbard

A1: 1st time as an undergrad at UNC. I needed to use a book for my thesis. RR staff were nice, but the process was so intimidating. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Hubbard  
@melissa_hubbard

I think staff were as welcoming as possible, but the process was scary. Big marble reading room, lots of paperwork. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Patrick Williams  
@activitystory

a1: only 1 rare book rm visit as an undergrad, no handling :(; did a bit of SC stuff in grad school... #critlib (1/2)

2 YEARS AGO

Patrick Williams  
@activitystory

didn’t get really comfortable until I collaborated with curators in mpow & learned from librarians at the Folger #critlib (2/2)

2 YEARS AGO

Dylan Burns  
@ForgetTheMaine

@activitystory no handling? booo! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Rebecca
@DerangeDescribe

A1 I took a Spec Colls class in lib skl. Prof brought in old (not rare) books in varying conditions, let us touch. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Amanda M Meeks
AcornElectric

A1 I've worked with artist books mostly, which are rare works of art in book form, & zines. Do those count? #critlib twitter.com/ForgetTheMaine...

2 YEARS AGO

Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

@AcornElectric Definitely! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

rust belt babe
kellykietur

A1 i did a practicum at the Detroit Institute of Arts, they probably had some rare books in their collection but it wasn’t my area #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Katy Rawdon
@lemurchild

A1: I never planned to work with rare books, but at my old job we had them and I was (usually) the only librarian, so...I learned. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Katy Rawdon
@lemurchild

A1: Now I coordinate tech services for archives *and* rare books, and I love working with both! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Amanda M Meeks
AcornElectric

@ A1 My current RIS position still allows me to work with rare books now and then; we consider it a teaching collection #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate
@marccold

@ A1. I got yelled at for requesting actual rare books (rather than microfilm) as a grad student. MF was not good quality, though. #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Hubbard
@melissa_hubbard

I have never been able to understand this kind of thing, but I think it still happens, alas. #critlib
twitter.com/marccold/statu...
2 YEARS AGO

Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

@marccold Well that is crappy! MF is usually not a replacement for actual books. #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate
@marccold

@ForgetTheMaine This was not in the States, though, so I was also to blame for not being sensitive to local norms. #critlib
2 YEARS AGO

Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

@marccold well I think even certain collections in the States will look at you when you request and say "whhhhhyyyy?" suspiciously #critlib
2 YEARS AGO
@ForgetTheMaine Oh, yes, I think the default assumption sometimes is that you're there to steal, rather than research. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

This assumption needs to die in a fire. #critlib WE ARE NOT DRAGONS GUARDING A HOARD. twitter.com/marccold/status... 

2 YEARS AGO

rowmyb[ike]
@rowmyboat

@marccold @ForgetTheMaine For us, it's more about wear & tear, I think. We've lots early 20th cent bad paper. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

rowmyb[ike]
@rowmyboat

@marccold @ForgetTheMaine If we have it MFed or digitized here (we're almost all archives & rare), we drive readers to that first. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Hubbard
@melissa_hubbard

Big difference between "Did you know that there's another option?" and "How dare you try to use this when there's another option?" #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dr.EB
@LNBel

@ForgetTheMaine @marccold Every needs to have a justification to see rare books in my opinion student to scholar -but my bar is low #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

A1. Got student worker gig in college Rare book room. Mostly vacuuming books and paging. Was runner up; 1st stu hired couldn’t do! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

A1. Rare books never entered my mind as something accessible to me until grad school: intimidating spec coll libs at my undergrad. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

@violetbfox Only took being scolded once for not holding a rare coin "correctly" to conclude it wasn’t for me (until grad school). #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Amanda M Meeks
Acornelectric

@violetbfox that’s unfortunate. We do a lot of outreach to encourage everyone to use our rare books as research/inspiration! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dr EB
@LNBell

A1- I encourage all who need to handle rare books and come see them, but I always let them know about digital copies first #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Kate Kitchens
@Infinity_Dots

A1: I’ve never handled rare books--nor have I been encouraged too. Maybe I eat too many flaming hot Cheetos. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Kate Kitchens  
@Infinity_Dots

A1: I do love pursuing the library & info studies-themed zines at UW-Madison's school of library & info studies #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas  
@lynnemthomas

Now also Head of Special Collections, (midlevel admin) so rare book handling limited to class visits. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dr.EB  
@LNBel

I teach 'show and tell' BI classes I always tell our students they can ask to see ours/other spec. coll. but they need preparation #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Katie Birkwood  
@Girlinthe

Lots of #critlib A1 comments about #rarebooks #speccolls seeming intimidating. twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

2 YEARS AGO

Katie Birkwood  
@Girlinthe

Big drive in UK to counter this idea. @britishlibrary & @UkNatArchives have policies saying no gloves on TV #critlib twitter.com/melissa_hubbar...

2 YEARS AGO

Katie Birkwood  
@Girlinthe

Important to remember how easy it is to seem arcane and obscure. And to actively fight that. #critlib #specoll twitter.com/melissa_hubbar...

2 YEARS AGO
Q2. What can rare book librarians do to break down barriers between repositories and the communities they serve?

Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

Q2. What can rare book librarians do to break down barriers between repositories and the communities they serve? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

This definitely speaks to what we're talking about in terms of difficulty of getting at collections #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

dk rusty belt babe dk
kellykietur

A2: i think like archives, rare book collections have this air of being for Serious Academics, so breaking that image is key #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

A2. Be approachable! Reach out! Be NICE and Enthusiastic and OFFER to help. Embedded *in* community builds trust. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
A2 outreach, really WORKING to turn around your image #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

A2. I work at a public uni, so we have a MANDATE to be accessible to the public. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Patrick Williams
@activitystory

Q2 in our case (strong local holdings) we’ve done outreach to HS teachers & have K-12 curricular materials #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

KC
@multyphenate

@ForgetTheMaine #critlib I wasn’t allowed to handle it so I found the book I wanted on eBay lol now I have my own #rbms library

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Hubbard
@melissa_hubard

Harder for rare books than for archives, I think. RB collections tend to have less obvious relevance to non-academics. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Coulston
@melissamsmc

A2 Publicity re: what’s in the collection & how it reflects community interests/values. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
A2 my library is working hard to change the image, and encourage the careful handling and use of materials but it is hard to shake. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A2 More lulz ... rangementanddescription.wordpress.com/2009/08/10/the... #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A2 OUTREACH and clear, but open, policies and procedures for using rare books. RB can be great inspiration #critlib twitter.com/ForgetTheMaine...

2 YEARS AGO

(A2) And their relevance to academics is decreasing. We need new ways to connect to new audiences. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

@lynnemthomas Ditto: Huge commitment (REQUIREMENT) to providing undergrad + community access. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

@ForgetTheMaine the videos that your library does are a good start! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
**Dr.EB**
@LNBel

BI classes include instructions—make appt in advance, wash hands, be prepared to wear gloves, follow instructions, pencils only etc. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

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**Agent Thomas**
@lynnemthomas

.@LNBel I'm interested that you still use gloves. We don't other than photos. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

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**Dylan Burns**
@ForgetTheMaine

@lynnemthomas @LNBel We do with our embroidered books sometimes. But with normal books usually not. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

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**Dr.EB**
@LNBel

@lynnemthomas I don't ask for gloves beyond photographs and prints, but students need to be prepared to be asked to do so elsewhere #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

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**MARCinaColdClimate**
@marccold

A2. While reading Archivaria, I kept thinking about OAIS ref model (what submitter puts in is not necessarily what user draws out) #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

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**MARCinaColdClimate**
@marccold

A2 (cont) and looking at Women in Print site, was fascinated to see how users are encouraged to tailor their own exps w/ the books. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Dr. EB @LNBel

A2 - I am supporting peoples research outside our collections - I never imagined how many genealogists/first time users I'd get #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas @lynnemthomas

A2. Much of my outreach direct to faculty, saying "here's what we have DIRECTLY RELEVANT to X class". #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Patrick Williams @activitystory

feel lucky teachers in my disciplines value rare/special collections & use instruction w/ me as a way in; spread via word of mouth #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Bookbinders Museum @BkBindersMuseum

@ForgetTheMaine A2 I'm at a museum, so I try to pop down and talk to the patrons as the tour ends. Sharing my enthusiasm helps. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Rebecca @DerangeDescribe

Feel free to adapt to your own reading room rules re gloves ...
rangementanddescription.wordpress.com/2014/01/13/do--... #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dr. EB @LNBel

I do research on archaeological objects, nitrile gloves for all are a new trend in museum research #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Melissa Hubbard  
@mellissa_hubbard

So, none of us require gloves, but we all assume that everyone else does. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dr.EB  
@LNBel

@DerangeDescribe add - does the curator ask you to wear gloves? Then wear gloves #respect #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Rebecca  
@DerangeDescribe

@LNBel The flowchart is CC-licensed, adapt away! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Rebecca  
@DerangeDescribe

A2 In a FPOW I wrote our reading room rules Fight Club-style. "Research is bare-knuckle...unless you're handling photos" #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Hubbard  
@mellissa_hubbard

People do demand gloves! Gloves = rare books to so many folks. I don't actually know where that comes from. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dylan Burns  
@ForgetTheMaine

A2 To be honest....I wear gloves in the most recent video.... #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dylan Burns  
@ForgetTheMaine

#critlib it is because I'm handling mother of pearl bindings...and we thought to be safe and all.

2 YEARS AGO
rowmyb[like]
@rowmyboat

A2: GET YOUR OPAC OR OTHER PUBLIC CATALOG IN ORDER FOR GOODNESS SAKE #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

rowmyb[like]
@rowmyboat

A2 Srzly tho. If ppl can't find it from the internet, they don't know you have it. Maybe they don't need to access it from there... #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

rowmyb[like]
@rowmyboat

A2 ...but they sure as shit aren't showing up to your library if they don't know you have it. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Katie Birkwood
@Girlinthe

@rowmyboat Yes, yes, yes. But oh my, there's so much to do... #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dr.EB
@LNBel

@rowmyboat agreed A2 - we do all we can to catalog and provide our collection finding aids and indexes - first priority #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

A2 (and 3&4). Breaking down the barriers includes challenging assumptions that "rare books" necessarily means old or fragile. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

THIS. 85% of my collection is post 1850. Not "rare" by many other collections' definitions. #critlib twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate
@marccold

@violetbfox Lots of surprise about that. Trying to explain that we're painting a pic of local hist, not stockpiling valuable stuff. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

@marccold @violetbfox YESSS! "Protecting cultural history objects from extinction" is what a boss of mine says #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Bookbinders Museum
@BkBindersMuseum

@violetbfox Amen! Lots of ours are 20th century, just from really really small printing runs. Specialized subject! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Kellykietur
@kellykietur

@violetbfox this is good b/c it also breaks the stereotype that a rare book is something that's hundreds of years old #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Bookbinders Museum
@BkBindersMuseum

Any suggestions for a small, niche subject museum library wanting to reach out to universities & ppl outside its niche field? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Patrick Williams
@activitystory

@BkBindersMuseum reach out to instructors to seek collab on assignments? Depending on discipline, I'll bet they'd be thrilled #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

@BkBindersMuseum Find where the community you want to engage with is already hanging out on the internet. forums, FB, Reddit, etc? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Violet Fox
@violeťtfox

@BkBindersMuseum How's your metadata? In good shape? Publicly accessible? Findable on Worldcat (or whatever)? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Bookbinders Museum
@BkBindersMuseum

@violeťtfox We're working on the Worldcat part, but yes, we have an accessible Koha catalog that I'm adding to daily. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Katie Birkwood
@Girlinthe

@BkBindersMuseum No suggestions, but in similar pos'n: rare bs lib in professional org. No immediate faculty/students to draw on! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

kate collins
@KateMetta

Even in classes where the book we're using "look" like rare books, I mention others in collection: comic books, pulp novels, etc. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Q3. What do we need to collect to ensure that rare books is more than old white texts?

A3. I think we need to ask people who aren’t old white dudes. Can be tricky depending on one’s institutional focus. #critlib

A3. *nods* If institutional focus is ‘stuff by, abt belonging to our members’ & women only admitted from c20th #critlib twitter.com/melissa_hubbar...

A3 small presses, community newspapers, community org papers, zines! #critlib

A3. #critlib Actively collect more than old white dudes. Backfill. Expand our definitions. Ask whose voices are missing. PROMOTE.
A3 When rare books != old, it's not hard. Artist books? Seek out female, queer, PoC, non-western, etc artists. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A3. For many academics, rare book collections are still the place to collect and interpret the canon. Can be hard to move past. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

@melissa_hubbard Our collection here was founded as a John Milton Room...so JM dominates...we're gotten away from that a ton. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A3. I know I'm a one-trick pony on this, but: #zines. Expanding your scope when possible to include current community output. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A3 (cont) Artists books, posters, videos, community activist material, etc. etc., to give people a sense of ownership, inclusion. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

A3: Include things from non-mainstream publishers like grrrl zines and posters #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
include both domestic and international authors of color #critlib twitter.com/ForgetTheMaine...

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

A3. #critlib If we are, to an extent, defining the canon by what we select for posterity, we must be inclusive in selections whenever poss

2 YEARS AGO

Dr.EB
@LNBel

A3 - I do my best to collect all voices in the our specialty - criminal justice - grey literature is key also - for us, NYPD pubs. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Amanda M Meeks
AcornElectric

A3 Materials by/about POC, reflections of the world we live in, community sourced, zines, artist books, etc #critlib twitter.com/ForgetTheMaine...

2 YEARS AGO

rowmyb[like]
@rowmyboat

A3 If you're lucky enough to be able to buy rare materials, I bet stuff that's not big name dead white dudes is cheaper. #justsayin #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Bookbinders Museum
@BkBindersMuseum

@ForgetTheMaine Pay attention to your subject area - for us, turns out women in bookbinding is remarkably well-documented. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

A3. #critlib It absolutely is cheaper in many cases, depending on subject area. @rowmyboat

Mattie Taormina
@MattieT650

@LNBel @lynnemthomas And metals and art prints. That's all we would require for gloves #critlib

Amanda M Meeks
AcornElectric

A3 currently working on a zine RESEARCH collection policy, but we'll still have SC of same materials for preservation #critlib

MARCinaColdClimate
@marccold

A3. Desc rare-books room as "this is where we tell story of our community" rather than "this is where we keep our Gutenberg Bible." #critlib

MARCinaColdClimate
@marccold

@marccold Don't get me wrong, I love a good Gutenberg Bible, but I think that promotes the idea of museums rather than libraries. #critlib

Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

@marccold I know exactly what you mean but I can't put it into words re: museum vs. library. #critlib
@ForgetTheMaine  Guess what I’m getting at is avoiding the *popular idea* of museum as don’t touch, not for you. (Not real museums) #critlib

@ForgetTheMaine  Whereas I feel a library should be more this is yours, this is our community’s, use carefully but please use. #critlib

@LNBel  A3 - we also collect prints, broadsides, mss collections, art books on/by prisons/prisoner such as those by @Justseeds #critlib

@BkBindersMuseum  @ForgetTheMaine and I’d also say take these acquisitions and make good use of any display/exhibit space to highlight them. #critlib

@lynnemthomas  A3. This. Exhibits/displays should be inclusive, too. #critlib twitter.com/BkBindersMuseum...

@BkBindersMuseum  @lynnemthomas I literally JUST installed a Women in Bookbinding exhibit on Friday! #critlib #WomensHistoryMonth
@violetbfox a lot of this seems to overlap with archives, so i guess where do rare books and archives split/converge? #critlib

@kellykietur @violetbfox #critlib IMHO, that varies by library. Many RBR/Specolls combined with archives!

A3 So much of rare books is prestige collecting, tho--specifically and only prestige collecting. Local/diverse doesn’t always rate #critlib

A3 Inclusion has to be a FOCUS. Centered in the mission, not just to meet some kind of amorphous quota #critlib

A3 small press books/zines are cheap but can become rare - buy two copies one for spec coll room and one for stacks #critlib

@LNBel Love the idea of including prison publications #critlib
Agent Thomas  
@lynnemthomas

A3 @agoodlibrarian If you're lucky enough to be person in charge of coldev policy, that can be changed. Incrementally? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas  
@lynnemthomas

@agoodlibrarian (I say that as a lib w/o sufficient budget to prestige-collect even if I wanted to.) #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Hubbard  
@melissa_hubbard

Great point! How do we explain desire for inclusiveness to those who only want prestige in a rare book collection? #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Coulston  
@melissamsmc

@mellisa_hubbard what's the mission? If mission has anything to do w/community, there's your argument. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Katie Birkwood  
@Grrlinthe

@melissamsmc @melissa_hubbard That's a super useful thought for me. Thank you! #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas  
@lynnemthomas

I'm not sure there are that many rare book cols that are that prestige centric at this point. #privilege #critlib twitter.com/melissa_hubbar...

2 YEARS AGO
todays small press / underground / out there publishers = tomorrow's prestige, hopefully! #critlib

@melissa_hubbard Perhaps explain that prestige/value is subjective, and there's value to be found outside the Big Names? #critlib

.@melissa_hubbard I think the only thing to do is really push the "use" point -- an inclusive collection drives use. #critlib

A3: Manuscripts help get at some of the missing voices, if they were literate. I'm trying to figure out how to better promote msc. #critlib

Try to be as creative as poss w/in remit & stretch the boundaries. Also highlight what we already have, as place to build from. #critlib A3

Q4. Can rare books be critical or radical? Can they be separated from capitalistic value?

Q4. Can rare books be separated from capitalistic value/prestige factor? #critlib
Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

A4. Ours are already separated. Once acquired, state property! (Thank goodness). #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Patrick Williams
@activilystory

A4 my most satisfying work w/ is w/ the smaller, more ephemeral, and less visible collections—the ones that haven’t had attention #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Patrick Williams
@activilystory

(which isn’t to say I don’t love the ‘treasures’, but the smaller/hidden things are more instructive about what we do) #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dr.EB
@LNBel

A3/2 - Aim low - my goal is to acquire, but gift/purchase/find laying around 50 rare books a year -do-able & list in annual report #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Torres
@ForgetTheMaine

If inclusiveness could drive use, which is not guaranteed...yes? Prestige usually = use #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

@agoodlibrarian  *nods* Often depends upon terms of endowments, frex. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

@agoodlibrarian the first folio sees almost daily use because it is so PRESTIGIOUS, every class session usually #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Hubbard
@melissa_hubbard

A4. One thing that's great about rare books is working with independent sellers. We are free of parasitic vendors. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Dr.EB
@LNBel

A4. some of the best/most used materials we have cost us nothing - also digitization breaks down barriers #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Katy Rawdon
@lemurchild

A4: YES. Promote other value types: teaching, research, exhibition, inclusion, community documentation. So much more than prestige. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Amanda M Meeks
AcornElectrical

A4 show value without making it about monetary value. What's culturally significant about your collection? #critlib twitter.com/ForgetTheMaine...

2 YEARS AGO

Kelly Kietur
kellykietur

Q4 i think to separate would require some radical thought reworking about what rare books are for #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Patrick Williams @activitystory

A4. my fav thing is when a students draw attn to items no one else paid much mind to before (like this: library.syr.edu/digital/guides...) #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Bookbinders Museum @BkBindersMuseum

A4. For academics, the less "prestigious" can be a better research venture, as there's a higher likelihood of a "new" discovery. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Melissa Hubbard @melissa_hubbard

Funny thing is, people look at an old book and say, "How much is that worth?!?" They don't do the same for the db that cost 5x more #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas @lynnemthomas

@melissa_hubbard I think I need to start making that direct comparison more often. #critlib #lessexpensivethanElsevier

2 YEARS AGO

Dr EB @LNBel

A4- if you are able, digitization & hosting of newsletters and grey literature of organizations can be part of donor agreements #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate @marccold

A4. Prestige can be a useful outreach tool, though. Our most famous manuscript coll gets visitors, esp whenever we show the movie. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
A4. Of course. Content found in rare collections can & should be used to subvert dominant paradigms, just need to be discoverable. #critlib

A4. I spend a lot of time saying "these are here for your use" to classes. Alumni, friends, uni paid for them. Humanities labwork. #critlib

@lynnemthomas Yes! Everyone who comes in when I'm on the desk hears that this is ALL FOR THEM. They no doubt think I'm nuts. :-) #critlib

@lynnemthomas I have begun saying to every class "a little part of me dies inside if you don't come back before you graduate" #critlib

@lynnemthomas @lemurchild Guilt. I like it. :D #critlib

A4 work to reinforce primary researchers, encourage them to go to other repositories after they are done with yours' #critlib
Q4 i guess i kind of wonder if there's ever been a faceoff between a private collector and a repository #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

@kellykietur Competing for stuff on the market? Likely. Faceoff for "ur doing it wrong"? Donor Agreements. Important. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

@kellykietur i was thinking more along the lines of stuff on the market!

2 YEARS AGO

@lynnemthomas That's easy: most money wins most often. Depends on scenario. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

@lynnemthomas @kellykietur There is always a ticking bomb above auctions...like if we don’t get this now it'll go private

2 YEARS AGO

@lynnemthomas @kellykietur and it'll never see the light of day again.

2 YEARS AGO
Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

@ForgetTheMaine @kellykietur We just don’t do them and live with disappointment. Not enough money, too much red tape. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Patrick Williams
@activitystory

a lot of these tweets support idea that getting deep into your own collections helps with outreach — I know it’s true for me #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

Genuine enthusiasm is also a key factor. #critlib twitter.com/activitystory/...

2 YEARS AGO

rowmyb[ike]
@rowmyboat

A4 Be ok w deaccessioning? Especially if thing's not in your purview. Maybe in someone else's & you could transfer. #cooperation #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

MARCinaColdClimate
@marccold

A4. Digitizing the prestigious takes away the "monetary value" aspect and refocuses on the value of the content. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Bookbinders Museum
@BkBindersMuseum

@marccold But you also lose some of the information - books are more than text on a page. #critlib

2 YEARS AGO
Conclusions

Thanks for hosting a great chat @ForgetTheMaine! I liked thinking through promoting our RB in a non-capitalist, inclusive way #critlib

As we wrap up #critlib, anyone willing to Storify today's chat? I don't have to convince *you* folks of the importance of archiving! 😇
Thanks to @ForgetTheMaine for a great topic and doing an excellent job moderating #critlib for the first time!

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excuse self link, but if you’re interested: article co-written w/ curator on exploring arch/sc w/ students #critlib surface.syr.edu/sul/140/

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thanks for a great #critlib @ForgetTheMaine (my first day-time chat!)

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Hey RBMSers, go check out today's #critlib, a rare books discussion! twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

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Thanks #critlib, now I have to go prepare for an Arts and Crafts Movement class for retirees tomorrow!

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Okay, officially calling My First #critlib participation worth doing. Excellent discussion!
lets send links to special collections? - here's mine guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/SpecialCollect... and our digital collections dc.lib.jjay.cuny.edu #critlib

@ForgetTheMaine I arrived late and by accident, but that was FUN. #critlib

@LNBel library.bookbindersmuseum.org for the catalog, and bookbindersmuseum.org for the museum as a whole. #critlib

Thanks @ForgetTheMaine for the thought-provoking questions and discussion! Will seek ways to work SC into instruction sessions #critlib

For more about our rare books & special collections, @NIUlive libguides.niu.edu/rbshome #critlib

Also, if you want to find special collections on social media, there's a wiki! ...ialcollectionsocialmedia.pbworks.com/w/page/6744318... #critlib
Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

Also, if you want to find special collections on social media, there's a wiki!...ialcollectionssocialmedia.pbworks.com/w/page/6744318... #critlib

2 YEARS AGO

Katie Birkwood
@Girlinthe

Stumbled across super interesting #critlib discussion on #rarebooks #speccolls. Come away w at least 1 v useful idea (note to self: voices).

2 YEARS AGO

Maria Nagle
@librarymaria

Some fascinating #rarebooks discussion on #critlib tonight, especially about prestige and engagement.

2 YEARS AGO