

by Violet Fox 2 years ago

#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](http://critlib.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
kellykietur

also [@ForgetTheMaine](#) is doin' a [#critlib](#) about rare books today at 2 PM Eastern hoollllaaaa
critlib.org/white-gloves/

 2 YEARS AGO



Dr. EB
@LNBel

Looking forward 2pm [#rare](#) books [#critlib](#) chat

2 YEARS AGO



Melissa Hubbard
@melissa_hubbard

[#critlib](#) on [#rarebooks](#) starting at 2pm! Join me, [@RBMSinfo](#) folks!

2 YEARS AGO

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!

2 YEARS AGO



Rebecca
@DerangeDescribe

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

2 YEARS AGO



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!

2 YEARS AGO



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).

2 YEARS AGO



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

AcornElectric


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
@melissamsmc

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



[rust belt babe](#)

[kellykietur](#)

also i'm kelly, eating mac and cheese while trying to keep it from the nosy dog [#critlib](#)

2 YEARS AGO



[Ryan P. Randall](#)

[@foureyedsoul](#)

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

2 YEARS AGO



[Mel Petricko](#)

[@melpetricko](#)

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

2 YEARS AGO



[kate collins](#)

[@KateMetta](#)

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

2 YEARS AGO



[rowmyb\[ike\]](#)

[@rowmyboat](#)

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

2 YEARS AGO

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



[Dylan Burns](#)

[@ForgetTheMaine](#)

Q1. Tell everyone about your experience with rare books, if any. Were you allowed/encouraged to handle the materials? [#critlib](#)

2 YEARS AGO



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...](https://twitter.com/marccold/status...)



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



MARCinaColdClimate

@marccold

@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/statu...](https://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

@LNBel

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](#) [#speccolls](#) twitter.com/melissa_hubbar...

 2 YEARS AGO



Katie Birkwood

@Girlinthe

I remember being nervy undergrad, but still, I don't think I make it as easy as I could for all readers :S #critlib [twitter.com/marccold/statu...](https://twitter.com/marccold/status...)

2 YEARS AGO



Katie Birkwood

@Girlinthe

And I've heard plenty of tales of even experienced library/archives users being stymied by unexplained #speccolls procedures. #critlib

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



[rust belt babe](#)
kellykietur@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



[rust belt babe](#)

[kellykietur](#)

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](#)

[@multihyphenate](#)

[@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_hubbard](#)

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



Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine


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



Rebecca
@DerangeDescribe

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Amanda M Meeks
AcornElectric @AcornElectric

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



Melissa Hubbard
@melissa_hubbard

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Katy Rawdon
@lemurchild

[@lynnemthomas](https://twitter.com/lynnemthomas) Ditto: Huge commitment (REQUIREMENT) to providing undergrad + community access. #critlib

 2 YEARS AGO



rust belt babe
kellykietur @kellykietur

[@ForgetTheMaine](https://twitter.com/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 2 wear gloves, follow instructions, pencils only etc. #critlib

 2 YEARS AGO



Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

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

 2 YEARS AGO



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



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



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
@melissa_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
@melissa_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[ike]
@rowmyboat

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

2 YEARS AGO



rowmyb[ike]
@rowmyboat

A2 Srsly 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[ike]
@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



rust belt babe

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
@violetbfox

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Bookbinders Museum
@BkBindersMuseum

[@violetbfox](#) 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



Colleen Theisen
@libralthinking

A2: Be visible & single minded obsession? Today I taught my server about digital pres. & produce guy abt community borrower card. #critlib

 2 YEARS AGO

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



Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

Q3. What do we need to collect to ensure that rare books are more than old white dude texts? #critlib

 2 YEARS AGO



Melissa Hubbard
@melissa_hubbard


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

 2 YEARS AGO



Katie Birkwood
@Girlinthe

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Patrick Williams
@activitystory

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

A3. #critlib Actively collect more than old white dudes. Backfill. Expand our definitions. Ask whose voices are missing. PROMOTE.

 2 YEARS AGO



rowmyb[ike]
@rowmyboat


A3 When rare books \neq old, it's not hard. Artist books? Seek out female, queer, PoC, non-western, etc artists. #critlib

 2 YEARS AGO



Melissa Hubbard
@melissa_hubbard

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



Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

@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



Violet Fox
@violetbfox

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



Violet Fox
@violetbfox

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Kate Kitchens
@Infinity_Dots

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

 2 YEARS AGO



KC
@multihyphenate

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[ike]
@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


 2 YEARS AGO



Mattie Taormina

@MattieT650

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

 2 YEARS AGO



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

 2 YEARS AGO



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

 2 YEARS AGO



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

 2 YEARS AGO



Dylan Burns

@ForgetTheMaine

@marccold I know exactly what you mean but I can't put it into words re: museum vs. library. #critlib

 2 YEARS AGO



MARCinaColdClimate

@marccold

[@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](#)



2 YEARS AGO



MARCinaColdClimate

@marccold

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



2 YEARS AGO



Dr.EB

@LNBel

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



2 YEARS AGO



Bookbinders Museum

@BkBindersMuseum

[@ForgetTheMaine](#) and I'd also say take these acquisitions and make good use of any display/exhibit space to highlight them. [#critlib](#)



2 YEARS AGO



Agent Thomas

@lynnemthomas

A3. This. Exhibits/displays should be inclusive, too. [#critlib](#) [twitter.com/BkBindersMuseu...](https://twitter.com/BkBindersMuseum)



2 YEARS AGO



Bookbinders Museum

@BkBindersMuseum

[@lynnemthomas](#) I literally JUST installed a Women in Bookbinding exhibit on Friday! [#critlib](#)
[#WomensHistoryMonth](#)



2 YEARS AGO



[rust belt babe](#)

[kellykietur](#) [@kellykietur](#)

[@violetbfox](#) a lot of this seems to overlap with archives, so i guess where do rare books and archives split/converge? [#critlib](#)


 2 YEARS AGO



[Agent Thomas](#)

[@lynnemthomas](#)

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

 2 YEARS AGO



[Melissa Torres](#)

[agoodlibrarian](#) [@agoodlibrarian](#)

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

 2 YEARS AGO



[Melissa Coulston](#)

[@melissamsmc](#)

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

 2 YEARS AGO



[Dr.EB](#)

[@LNBel](#)

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

 2 YEARS AGO



[Kate Kitchens](#)

[@Infinity_Dots](#)

[@LNBel](#) Love the idea of including prison publications [#critlib](#)

 2 YEARS AGO



Agent Thomas

@lynnemthomas

A3 [.@agoodlibrarian](#) If you're lucky enough to be person in charge of colldev 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

[@melissa_hubbard](#) what's the mission? If mission has anything to do w/community, there's your argument. [#critlib](#)



2 YEARS AGO



Katie Birkwood

@Girlinthe

[@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 colls that are that prestige centric at this point. [#privilege](#) [#critlib](#) twitter.com/melissa_hubbar...



2 YEARS AGO



Patrick Williams

@activitystory

today's small press / underground / out there publishers = tomorrow's prestige, hopefully!

#critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Bookbinders Museum

@BkBindersMuseum

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



2 YEARS AGO



rowmyb[ike]

@rowmyboat

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



2 YEARS AGO



Colleen Theisen

@libralthinking

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



2 YEARS AGO



Katie Birkwood

@Girlinthe

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



2 YEARS AGO

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



Dylan Burns

@ForgetTheMaine

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




2 YEARS AGO



Agent Thomas

@lynnemthomas

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


 2 YEARS AGO



Patrick Williams

@activitystory

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

@activitystory

(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

agoodlibrarian

@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
AcornElectric @AcornElectric

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

2 YEARS AGO



rust belt babe
kellykietur @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



Violet Fox
@violetbfox


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

 2 YEARS AGO



Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Katy Rawdon
@lemurchild

@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

 2 YEARS AGO



Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Bookbinders Museum
@BkBindersMuseum

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Dr.EB
@LNBel

A4 work to reinforce primary researchers, encourage them to go to other repositories after they are done with yours' #critlib

 2 YEARS AGO



[rust belt babe](#)

[kellykietur](#)

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



Agent Thomas

[@lynnemthomas](#)

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



2 YEARS AGO



[rust belt babe](#)

[kellykietur](#)

[@lynnemthomas](#) i was thinking more along the lines of stuff on the market!



2 YEARS AGO



Agent Thomas

[@lynnemthomas](#)

[@kellykietur](#) That's easy: most money wins most often. Depends on scenario. #critlib



2 YEARS AGO



Dylan Burns

[@ForgetTheMaine](#)

[@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



Dylan Burns

[@ForgetTheMaine](#)

[@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/...](https://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



MARCinaColdClimate

@marccold

@BkBindersMuseum True. Tough to balance access and holistic view of book. #critlib


 2 YEARS AGO



Bookbinders Museum

@BkBindersMuseum

@marccold I'm holding out for a Star Trek style holodeck. #critlib #unrealistic

 2 YEARS AGO



Rebecca

@DerangeDescribe

Just had a fun comic idea--if you have photos of ppl handling rare books w/ or w/out gloves, can you share? #critlib

 2 YEARS AGO



rowmyb[ike]

@rowmyboat

A4 ...easier said than done, I know, esp re: donor agreements. But maybe look into that. #critlib

 2 YEARS AGO

Conclusions



Amanda M Meeks

AcornElectric

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Violet Fox

@violetbfox

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! 🙄

 2 YEARS AGO



Violet Fox
@violetbfox


Thanks to [@ForgetTheMaine](#) for a great topic and doing an excellent job moderating [#critlib](#) for the first time!

 2 YEARS AGO



Patrick Williams
@activitystory


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/](#)

 2 YEARS AGO



Patrick Williams
@activitystory

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

 2 YEARS AGO



RBMS
@RBMSinfo

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Dylan Burns
@ForgetTheMaine

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

Okay, officially calling My First [#critlib](#) participation worth doing. Excellent discussion!

 2 YEARS AGO



Dr. EB
@LNBel


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

 2 YEARS AGO



Bookbinders Museum
@BkBindersMuseum

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Bookbinders Museum
@BkBindersMuseum

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Kate Kitchens
@Infinity_Dots

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

 2 YEARS AGO



Agent Thomas
@lynnemthomas

For more about our rare books & special collections, [@NIUlive libguides.niu.edu/rbschome](https://@NIUlive.libguides.niu.edu/rbschome) #critlib

 2 YEARS AGO



RBMS
@RBMSinfo

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



Agent Thomas

@lynnemthomas

Also, if you want to find special collections on social media, there's a wiki!
[...ialcollectionssocialmedia.pbworks.com/w/page/6744318...](https://www.pinterest.com/lynnemthomas/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