History of critical/radical/progressive librarianship #critlib chat-- October 11th, 2016

Below you will find tweets from the history of critical/radical/progressive librarianship #critlib chat, which was moderated by @violetbfox and @ClaireB_LIS. Feel free to reach out to me-- @KristynMC-- with comments or feedback! Enjoy!

**First, some build up to the chat!**

**Violet Fox**
@violetbfox

Feel like you're undereducated about history of librarianship? Me too. Let's talk tonight & learn together! critlib.org/history-of-critical-librarianship #critlib

A YEAR AGO

**Debbie Richards**
@amdial

TONIGHT #libraries #librarians #critlib twitter.com/violetbfox/status/797224675981597440

A YEAR AGO

**Onto the chat and a sample of participant introductions!**

**bee**
@beeewrites

i’m bianca, a student at @PrattInfoSchool ! #critlib

A YEAR AGO

**James**
@modbrarian

Hi #critlib James here. Ref & Inst lab in Wisconsin. I work with the history department mainly where I am at. Excited about tonight's talk.

A YEAR AGO
Question 1: What are the similarities or differences in current approaches to bringing social justice into libraries versus previous efforts? #critlib

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

Q1. What are similarities or differences in current approaches to bringing social justice into libraries vs. previous efforts? #critlib

Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

A1: Think we have similar goals, but trying new approaches because past efforts were only partially successful. Continuing the work #critlib

Jenna Freedman
@zinelib

A1 Racial & ethnic & interest rd tables, task forces, etc. working w/in lib’ship & beyond. #EJJosey! #GLBTRT @reformanational #critlib 3/3

Kristyn
@KristynMC83

If we want 2 talk about the history of #critlib & librarianship we need 2 start w/ segregation & librarians participation/resistance 2 it

James
@modbrarian

A1: I would think if nothing else. We have more visibility on these issues then we did in the past. #critlib
@modbrarian Do you think so? I meet a lot of people who have never heard of #critlib, so I wonder...

A YEAR AGO

Jess Jochum
Jessica_Jochum

A1. Definitely agree! Visibility & awareness is definitely a huge contributing factor. #critlib twitter.com/modbrarian/sta...

A YEAR AGO

Maggie Murphy
@maggiehm

A1 From the reading, seems like some previous efforts focused on bringing library TO social justice organizations (and journos) #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Ryan P. Randall
@foureyedsoul

A1 Seems like now there's added emphasis on social justice ~within~ librarianship/LIS. Not primarily helping outward. #critlib @maggiehm

A YEAR AGO

Tina Gross
@aboutness

A1. Not an answer, but a related question: How much do the differences track, or not, with differences in broader social movements? #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

@aboutness imho, it tracks a lot with protests/activism in general: a lack of patience with old-school organizing & organizations. #critlib

A YEAR AGO
**Elizabeth Smith**
@jinglefrisbee

@violetbfox @aboutness Samesies: I’d say initiatives in Aus LIS historically track with broader social movements esp. during 1970s #critlib

A YEAR AGO

**Question 2:** How is the work of previous critical librarians evident in lib practices today? Is it more evident in some areas of practice? Question 2 only elicited a few responses. Perhaps people were still thinking about question 1?

**Violet Fox**
@violetbfox

Q2. How is the work of previous critical librarians evident in lib practices today? Is it more evident in some areas of practice? #critlib

A YEAR AGO

**Rory Litwin**
@rorylitwin

A2. This might be a little wonky, but SRRT has had a lot of influence on the ALA Policy Manual. #critlib

A YEAR AGO

**Kristyn**
@KristynMC83

A1: we have one example of a white librarian who fought to desegregate libraries: Juliet Hampton Morgan: tolerance.org/lesson/juliett... #critlib

A YEAR AGO

**Kristyn**
@KristynMC83

A1: And activists like Ethel Sawyer were arrested for doing a sit in to desegregate libraries: dp.la/exhibitions/ex... #critlib

A YEAR AGO
A2. As far as real library practice, like the way people do their jobs, really hard question to answer. #critlib

Question 3: What do the critical theory-focused elements of #critlib bring to the critical librarian conversation? How do they detract?

Q3. What do the critical theory-focused elements of #critlib bring to the critical librarian conversation? How do they detract?

A3 it's very easy to participate in a #critlib now and pat yourself on the back. Your actions offline still matter.

you can tweet all you want, but slipping up and saying a sexist/classist/racist thing elsewhere means you still don't get it #critlib

our behavior in the library matters! our patrons are watching and don't know how much we may have tweeted. #critlib

@beewrites I'd argue that everyone slips up, even "it getters". #critlib
Kate Deibel
@metageeky

@violetbfox @beewrites what really matters is how you respond when called out, even if it is only yourself who notices the slip. #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

@violetbfox @beewrites Agreed. Part of doing The Work means you’re going to make mistakes. It’s ok, as long as your learn from it. #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Kate Deibel
@metageeky

@kevinseeber @violetbfox @beewrites And doing legitimate apologies. No, ”I’m sorry you were offended.” #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Kenny Garcia
@kennygarciamtls

A3: BPP & Young Lords organizers had an internationalist perspective cuz they incorporated theory in organizing #critlib

A YEAR AGO

Jenna Freedman
@zinelib

A3 Tho I’m not a theory person myself, I don’t mind if others use specialized vocab to talk to each other. We all have our own jam. #critlib

A YEAR AGO

calloween
@eminencefont

A3. mentioned this before, but I do think critical theory lingo can deter public/other types of libs from participating 1/ #critlib

A YEAR AGO
A3. this is not just a problem with #critlib - there are certain words, workflows, competencies etc that act as demarcation lines 2/2

Kate Adler
@xsublibrarian

Continuing: to sort the over-throry-ing (related-ish to tenure-work)/back-patting, priority setting etc #critlib @nicholsonkp @eminencefont twitter.com/xsublibrarian/...

Ryan P. Randall
@foureyedsoul

A3 Theory can bring useful ways to communicate about or perceive the problems we experience, plus potential tools to intervene. 1/2 #critlib

Question 4: What do we lose if we aren't aware of our critical librarianship history?

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

Q4. What do we lose if we aren’t aware of our critical librarianship history? #critlib

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

A4. Don’t know if I’m flogging a horse, but I wish critical history were taught in LIS, because *of course* #critlib didn't invent this.

Kristyn
@KristynMC83

Yes! #critlib was made possible because of it! twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...
Des Alaniz  
@littlegoldenage

Agreed- i think programs are struggling with the red herring of "balancing theory and practice" at this moment  
#critlib twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

Jenna Freedman  
@zinelib

A4: I think it's impt to know what's gone before, I I also think each generation has to learn from it's own (or the same) mistakes.  
#critlib

Jess Jochum  
@zinelib

@zinelib We have just as much to learn from our failures as our successes  
#critlib

Kate Deibel  
@metageeky

A4: Having the same conversations again and again. Of course, how many times will conf keynotes emphasize "X is not neutral"?  
#critlib

Violet Fox  
@violetbfox

@metageeky Until everyone in the room believes it and lives it--I think we’re far from there, to be honest.  
#critlib

Kevin Seeber  
@kevinseeber

@metageeky That's often to offset the continued assertion that we are neutral. It's still taught in LIS programs, still in the lit.  
#critlib
The chat ended with a series of pitches, using the #critpitch hashtag. Critical pitches are essentially calls for action.

@violetbfox

#critpitch: Think #critlib is all talk and no action? Suggest some action! Make it happen with your critlib pals! Let’s do it together!

@zinelib

#critlib pitch Buy yrself or loved one an #Information #BlackLivesMatter T-shirt made for ALISE 2017. Benefits BLM spreadspirit.com/blm-alise-2017...

@aboutness

Cataloging & Classification Quarterly is reviving its interview series & I’m going to be interviewing Sandy Berman. #critlib #critpitch

@aboutness

If there's anything you'd like to ask Sandy or hear his opinion on, please let me know. DM or email me. Thanks! #critlib #critpitch
The next 60th #critlib chat is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2016 on the topic of diversity/inclusion/anti-oppression at public service points and will be moderated by @gnomadlibrarian. Time: 11am Pacific / noon Mountain / 1pm Central / 2pm Eastern. For more info, check out the site here: critlib.org/public-service—.