

by KristynCaragher a year ago

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-critlib #critlib



A YEAR AGO



Debbie Richards
@amdial

TONIGHT #libraries #librarians #critlib [twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...](https://twitter.com/violetbfox/status/786111111)



A YEAR AGO

Onto the chat and a sample of participant introductions!



bee
@beeewrites

i'm bianca, a student at [@PrattInfoSchool](https://prattinfo.org) ! #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



Des Alaniz

@littlegoldenage

Hi yall! Archives/history grad student, zine library intern, i'll be popping my head in to [#critlib](#) 2night



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](#)



A YEAR AGO



Kevin Seeber

@kevinseeber

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



A YEAR AGO



Jenna Freedman

@zinelib

A1 Racial & ethnic & interest rd tables, task forces, etc. working w/in lib'ship & beyond. [#EJJosey!](#) [#GLBTRT](#) [@reformatnational](#) [#critlib](#) 3/n



A YEAR AGO



Kristyn

@KristynMC83

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



A YEAR AGO



James

@modbrarian

A1: I would think if nothing else. We have more visibility on these issues then we did in the past. [#critlib](#)



A YEAR AGO



Violet Fox
@violetbfox

@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_Jochum

A1. Definitely agree! Visibility & awareness is definitely a huge contributing factor. #critlib [twitter.com/modbrarian/sta...](https://twitter.com/modbrarian/status/1111111111)



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



Rory Litwin

@rorylitwin

A2. As far as real library practice, like the way people do their jobs, really hard question to answer. [#critlib](#)



A YEAR AGO

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



Violet Fox

@violetbfox

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



A YEAR AGO



bee

@beeewrites

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



A YEAR AGO



bee

@beeewrites

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](#)



A YEAR AGO



bee

@beeewrites

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



A YEAR AGO



Violet Fox

@violetbfox

[@beeewrites](#) I'd argue that everyone slips up, even "it getters". [#critlib](#)




A YEAR AGO



Kate Deibel
@metageeky


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

 A YEAR AGO



Kate Deibel
@metageeky

@kevinseeber @violetbfox @beeewrites And doing legitimate apologies. No, "I'm sorry you were offended." #critlib

 A YEAR AGO



Kenny Garcia
@kennygarciamlis


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



calloween

@eminencefont

A3. this is not just a problem with [#critlib](#) - there are certain words, workflows, competencies etc that act as demarcation lines 2/2



A YEAR AGO



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/...](#)



A YEAR AGO



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](#)



A YEAR AGO

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](#)



A YEAR AGO



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.



A YEAR AGO



Kristyn

@KristynMC83

Yes! [#critlib](#) was made possible because of it! [twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...](#)




A YEAR AGO



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...](https://twitter.com/violetbfox/status/1111111111)

 A YEAR AGO



Jenna Freedman
@zinelib

A4: I think it's imp't to know what's gone before, I I also think each generation has to learn from it's own (or the same) mistakes. [#critlib](#)

 A YEAR AGO



Jess Jochum
Jessica Jochum

[@zinelib](#) We have just as much to learn from our failures as our successes [#critlib](#)

 A YEAR AGO



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](#)

 A YEAR AGO



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](#)

 A YEAR AGO



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](#)

 A YEAR AGO



Rory Litwin
@rorylitwin

I pulled together something today that I want to share: More further readings on history of [#critlib](https://libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=5389) libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=5389



A YEAR AGO



karen nicholson
@nicholsonkp

Thanks @rorylitwin! i'll be reading this...so much about this I don't know and want to learn [#critlib](https://twitter.com/rorylitwin/status...) [twitter.com/rorylitwin/sta...](https://twitter.com/rorylitwin/status...)



A YEAR AGO

The chat ended with a series of pitches, using the [#critpitch](https://twitter.com/#critpitch) hashtag. Critical pitches are essentially calls for action.



Violet Fox
@violetbfox

[#critpitch](https://twitter.com/#critpitch): Think [#critlib](https://twitter.com/#critlib) is all talk and no action? Suggest some action! Make it happen with your critlib pals! Let's do it together!



A YEAR AGO



Jenna Freedman
@zinelib

[#critlib](https://twitter.com/#critlib) pitch Buy yrself or loved one an [#InFormation](https://twitter.com/#InFormation) [#BlackLivesMatter](https://twitter.com/#BlackLivesMatter) T-shirt made for ALISE 2017. Benefits BLM spreadspirit.com/blm-alise-2017...



A YEAR AGO



Tina Gross
@aboutness

Cataloging & Classification Quarterly is reviving its interview series & I'm going to be interviewing Sandy Berman. [#critlib](https://twitter.com/#critlib) [#critpitch](https://twitter.com/#critpitch)



A YEAR AGO



Tina Gross
@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](https://twitter.com/#critlib) [#critpitch](https://twitter.com/#critpitch)



A YEAR AGO

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-...