#critlib 2017-10-23: radical empathy in archival practice

October 23 2017 #critlib chat on Radical Empathy in Archival Practice, informed by the article "From Human Rights to Feminist Ethics: Radical Empathy in the Archives" by Michelle Caswell and Marika Cifor. Moderated by @DinahHandel and @kellywooten. See also https://radical-empathy.tumblr.com/.

References

radical empathy in archival practice | critlib
From The diseases of the cat / by J. Woodroffe Hill (1901)

From Human Rights to Feminist Ethics: Radical Empathy in Archives - eScholarship
Much recent discussion about social justice in archival studies has assumed a legalistic, rights-based framework to delineate the role of records, archives, and archivists in both the violation of human rights and in holding individuals and governments accountable for basic human rights, such as the right to life, privacy, and freedom of expression.

Announcements

Sallie Bingham Ctr
@binghamctr
Monday 10/23 join the #critlib convo on radical empathy in archival practice co-hosted by our own @kellywooten critlib.org/radical-empath...

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel
Questions are up for #critlib based on @professorcaz & @marika_louise article! #d4d folks listening to @mollyebrown talk may be interested twitter.com/binghamctr/sta...
Violet Fox  @violetbfox

Can’t wait for Monday’s #critlib on "radical empathy in archival practice"! Great Qs by @DinahHandel & @kellywooten! critlib.org/radical-empath...

5 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox  @violetbfox

#critlib If you haven't read @professorcaz & @marika_louise's article please do so! escholarship.org/uc/item/omb956... Even if you’re not in archives!

5 MONTHS AGO

Did you know that preparing to host a #critlib chat starts by collaborating with a bunch of smart women & culminates in glitter gifs? pic.twitter.com/sP45QEFawz

@KELLYWOOTEN  @KELLYWOOTEN - 5 MONTHS AGO

Ed Summers  @edsu

@fromADMwithlove It could be interesting to tune into #critlib next Monday, it looks like it will be a good one, and relevant? critlib.org/radical-empath...

5 MONTHS AGO
recovering from spinal surgery; send me healing energy / vibes / & such & i'll see you for the #critlib chat next week xoxo

@kellywooten you have no idea how excited i am for this #critlib chat

Tomorrow @ 2 PM EST is radical empathy in archival practice #critlib critlib.org/radical-empath... Being an archivist not req. for participation!

We’ll be starting our Radical Empathy in Archives #critlib chat soon! 11am PST/ 12pm MST / 1pm CST / 2pm EST critlib.org/radical-empath...
Today's #critlib should be an especially good one: #RadicalEmpathy in Archival Practice led by @DinahHandel & @kellywooten. 2pm ET. pic.twitter.com/BksbAAJGOs

@BarnardLib 4 MONTHS AGO

Soc of NC Archivists
@NCArchivists

Ready for a tea and twitter break this afternoon? Tune in for this chat on Radical Empathy in Archives #critlib twitter.com/DinahHandel/st...

4 MONTHS AGO

Jo Polanco
@jopolancoLIS

@DinahHandel Looking forward to my first #critlib chat! #LIS673 @PrattInfoSchool

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten 🚶‍♀️
@kellywooten

We'll be starting our Radical Empathy in Archives #critlib chat soon! 11am PST/ 12pm MST / 1pm CST / 2pm EST critlib.org/radical-empath...

4 MONTHS AGO
Introductions

Skelly Wooten
@kellywooten

Here are some tips to make your chat experience great (turn off notifications! try tweetchat! eat a snack!) #critlib critlib.org/twitter-chats/

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten
@kellywooten

If you can’t join the #critlib chat but want to learn more, check out the article that inspired us—lots to offer beyond archives. twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

Hi all! Welcome to the #critlib chat about radical empathy in archival practice: critlib.org/radical-empath...

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

A reminder to all chatters to answer questions using A and the question number you are answering, ex. A1 for an answer to Q1 #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten
@kellywooten

Hi! I’m your co-pilot for today’s #critlib. You can tweet anonymously through this form: tinyurl.com/ybyqck72

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

Let’s start with a round of introductions! I’m Dinah, I work at the new york public library, and I’m a member of xfr collective. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
@DinahHandel I'm Kelly. I work at @binghamctr with women's & lgbtq history collections at Duke University's @rubensteinlib #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Nora Almeida
@nora_almeida

Hey #critlib, I'm Nora Academic librarian from NYC + Interference Archive volunteer.

4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith
@infomartian

Diana at brooklyn public here. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Jo Polanco
@jopolancoLIS

I'm Jo, a MSLIS student at Pratt Institute. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Meg Edison
@edison_meg

I'm Meg, also a MLIS student at Pratt #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Jidaaaaaaaana!!
@gmecagni

#critlib I'm Giordana, I work at Northeastern's Archives

4 MONTHS AGO

Small Group Work 🫔
@lemurchild

Hiya, I'm Katy, Coordinator of Technical Services for the Special Collections Research Center at Temple U in Philly. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
"Laura BRAAAINS!tein
@laurabrarian
hi #critlib I'm Laura, #DH librarian and mostly lurking today while I finish some writing

Max Bowman
@maxgbowman
Hi 🌟 I'm Max, academic librarian in Virginia #critlib

liza ☺️☺️☺️
@lizarhar
hi #critlib, I'm Liza, and I work at the New School

Liz Settodicato ☺️
@lizetto
Hi #critlib! I'm Liz, a STEM librarian (& former a special collections/ archives worker). Lurking before I teach a class this afternoon. :)

4 MONTHS AGO
hi #critlib i’m amanda, archivist in seattle and have been looking forward to this chat for weeeeeeexels pic.twitter.com/ak99KbVnxS

@EPHEMERAMANDA - 4 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

Hi #critlib, I’m Violet, cataloger-type person at an academic library in the middle of Minnesota.

4 MONTHS AGO

rosemary k. j. davis
@widelight

hi #critlib! i’m rosemary--an accessioning archivist @BeineckeLibrary. i’ll be chiming in as a can whilst going from meeting to meeting.

4 MONTHS AGO

karina hagelin
@karinahagelin

hi #critlib, i’m karina, a queer femme #zinester, #mlis student & library worker in digital systems & stewardship outside of dc.

4 MONTHS AGO
Erin @barkivist
Jumping into the #critlib discussion of radical empathy in archives when I can.... I'm Erin and I'm a university archivist.

4 MONTHS AGO

Maura Smale @mauraweb
Hi #critlib! Late & lunching & lurking b/c not an archivist, I'm Maura, college lib director in NYC, glad to be here.

4 MONTHS AGO

Snowden Becker @snowdenbecker
Hi #critlib! Just joining after a meeting; I'm MLIS Program Manager at @UCLAiS, but participating as a person today.

4 MONTHS AGO

regular skull avi @marxalot
I'm lurking today's #critlib bc I feel like my brain's gonna fall out but y'all are 🧠

4 MONTHS AGO

food & drink policy @zoh_zoh
just lurking on the #critlib chat today --I'm a community college librarian in Seattle, WA.

4 MONTHS AGO

Katrina Vandeven @khvandeven
#critlib joining late--MLIS Candidate at the University of Denver, activist archivist

4 MONTHS AGO

Q1. Reflect on the 4 relationships discussed in the article (between archivists and records creators, records subjects, users & larger communities) and share your experience with any that resonated with you.
Q1: Reflect on the 4 relationships discussed in the article and share your experience with any that resonated with you. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Q1 As a reminder, those relationships are b/t the archivist and records creators, records subjects, users, & larger communities. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

A1 all 4 relationships resonated w/me but I was especially struck by the 5th affective responsibility proposed by the #saa17 panel #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

@infomartian You are right on target-- I ran out of characters to add that one! #critlib A1

4 MONTHS AGO
Here it is in @kellywooten's zine! #critlib A1 pic.twitter.com/FQ8sGMIBYN

@infomartian Can you say more about the possibilities of envisioning a radical empathy among our colleagues? #critlib A1

@infomartian esp following greg cow's plenary speech, a lot of us were considering the idea of vulnerability in professional spaces. #critlib A1

@kellywooten that's a huge part of it for me. being open to & supportive of vulnerability in others & feeling empowered to be vulnerable myself #critlib
@kellywooten for example, having an instinctive negative reaction to poor spelling/grammar #critlib A1

@kellywooten

Yes! We can’t be an inclusive profession when we are nitpicking typos in colleagues' emails. #critlib A1 twitter.com/infomartian/st...

@kellywooten or in reference interactions. researcher gatekeeping is gross. a1 #critlib

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

A1: Thinking about relationship between record subjects/creator & archivist. How do we care for subjects/creators in description? #critlib

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

A1 Thinking specifically about queer materials & reading creators with terminology we use now as opposed to how they self describe. #critlib

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

A1: Tension between wanting to locate queer people in history but also don’t want to impose identity onto someone’s experience. #critlib
Meg Edison
@edison_meg

A1 thinking about archivist/creator, im struggling with how we acknowledge how they would feel without imposing ourselves? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Nora Almeida
@nora_almeida

Think (creators, subjects, broader communities) often intersect. When they don't...whose perspective gets lost or marginalized? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Small Group Work 📺
@lemurchild

A1: I've been thinking about how to connect communities w/the records of their history: + how does a tech services archivist help? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Small Group Work 📺
@lemurchild

A1: + also thinking as part of work for #A4BLiP about archivists/subjects; how do we describe people without causing harm? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten 📺
@kellywooten

@lemurchild I want to imagine a world where tech services folks are also involved in donor relationships and community building. #critlib A1

4 MONTHS AGO

Small Group Work 📺
@lemurchild

@kellywooten I want to live in that world! #critlib A1

4 MONTHS AGO
Nora Almeida
@nora_almeida

@lemurchild Maybe include community of subjects in archival description process. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten
@kellywooten

I've been thinking about @anarchivist's comment about maintaining boundaries in these relationships. #critlib A1

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten
@kellywooten

@anarchivist Here's the tweets with some commentary by me about empathy & boundaries radical-empathy.tumblr.com/post/166708341... #critlib A1

4 MONTHS AGO

Small Group Work
@lemurchild

@kellywooten @anarchivist Oh yes. How do we bring our whole selves to our work and to our collegial relationships, yet maintain boundaries? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten
@kellywooten

#critlib A1 twitter.com/ephemeramanda/...

4 MONTHS AGO

not be assigned that reflect a cataloger's opinion about the contents. Consider the intent of the author or publisher and, if possible, assign headings for this orientation without being judgmental. Follow stated intentions of the author or publisher in such matters as readership, audience level, treatment as fact or fiction, etc.

A1. In lib cataloging, told to assign subj headings by considering the intent of the author, which privileges that relationship. #critlib pic.twitter.com/pqxlH3fUdH

VIOLET FOX @VIOLETFOX · 4 MONTHS AGO
Violet Fox @violetbfox

A1 (cont.) Thinking about what it means to be "user-centered"; grateful to article for recognizing responsibility beyond "users". #critlib

rosemary k. j. davis @widelight

A1: Accessioning = really key element in establishing relationships between creators/donors & future access/discoverability #critlib

Jo Polanco @jopolancoLIS

A1: new to librarianship/archiving most identify with relationship with larger community. As consumer of archives never thought of it #critlib

Dinah Handel @DinahHandel

A1: Also, the relationship between users & archivists, around access can be in conflict with wanting to care for subjects/creators. #critlib

Diana Bowers-Smith @infomartian

so true. #critlib twitter.com/DinahHandel/st...
Jidaaaaaaaaa!!
@gmecagni

#critlib A1 Saw a really great talk by @justbilley abt. changing LCSH for queer people

4 MONTHS AGO

rosemary k. j. davis
@widelight

A1: Baseline description & initial catalog record/subject heading assignment is often only evidence of collex existence #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

rosemary k. j. davis
@widelight

A1: vital to transmit as much context from donor as possible so it's not lost through iterative descript. retain voices of creators. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Erin
@barkivist

A1: I've been thinking a lot about radical empathy in an institutional archives. Where do we non-collecting archivists fit into this discussion? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox 🌈
@violetbfox

@barkivist Oh, interesting! Maybe consideration to who is affected by the institution without necessarily being a part of the institution? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Erin
@barkivist

@violetbfox Yes! This is where I keep going with this. Whose stories are missing in the retention schedule and what can I do about it? It's a challenge bc, for many institutional archivists, they don't have the ability to do much collecting beyond the retention schedule.... #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
@barkivist @violetbfox A2 It is hard, because RM is heirarchical. Collecting student groups helps, and Alumna/e who aren't powerful #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Erin
@barkivist

@gmecagni @violetbfox Also, in most university settings, admin folks are doing their own in-office records management, so we even see gaps from the powerful folks we're tasked with documenting! #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Small Group Work 😊
@lemurchild

@barkivist I feel like there is a TON of emotional labor and relationship work in institutional archives! #critlib A1

4 MONTHS AGO

CharlieBrownsGhost 🕊
@kcrowe

A1: Usually this=outreach and collab for me. Keep coming back to our #resist exhibit pairing student-created contemp photos + uni #critlib twitter.com/barkivist/stat...

4 MONTHS AGO

Erin
@barkivist

@kcrowe Me too, but I also recognize that outreach/collab is really limited due to what I get via retention sched. What I have/get doesn't really reflect the university as a whole. Stories are hidden (or erased). #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Small Group Work 😊
@lemurchild

@barkivist @violetbfox Like you almost need an external retention schedule for outside (but affected/affecting) people/groups. YES. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
@barkivist @kcrowe Even with those limitations, just intentionally framing the collection as incomplete is helpful. Making missing pieces visible. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

@kcrowe The student newspaper gets heavy rotation in instruction as a result - it's one of the few places student voice shows up reliably. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

@barkivist

Over the past two years we've had funding for oral histories as part of our 125th, and we're purposefully interviewing current students (inc group leaders, international students, etc) + #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

@barkivist

+ We don't have sustained funding for oral history right now. Which stinks because it's the best way I've found to fill gaps and let people tell their own story. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

@barkivist

Marking this question to come back to-- @barkivist let's work on a Tumblr post? #critlib A1 twitter.com/barkivist/stat...

4 MONTHS AGO

@barkivist

Even if you aren't collecting, the org of records and their access points can be created w/ empathy 4 who the records represent #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
Q2. How can we remain emotionally open and vulnerable yet remain grounded? Can we be both affective and effective archivist?

Dinah Handel @DinahHandel
Q2: How can we remain emotionally open and vulnerable yet stay grounded? Can we be both affective and effective archivists? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel @DinahHandel
A2: Sometimes I'm like, forget being effective, the affective nature of our work is so much more valuable and important! #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel @DinahHandel
but given that we are not exempt from capitalism and assigning material value to our labor, this is really difficult! #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten @kellywooten
A2 I think we already started reflecting on this question in the conversations about Q1/A1. Bringing whole self vs preserving self #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
Diana Bowers-Smith
@infomartian

@DinahHandel this ties in exactly to what you were saying for A1 about balancing user needs and creator/subject needs #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Liz Settodenato
@lizsetto

Q2: the definition of effective can vary! good stewardship doesn't always fit w/ effectiveness & productivity under capitalism. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

WORDS Rising Synergy
@TheGnarrator

@DinahHandel I think affective work can lead to effective work. they're not mutually exclusive concepts #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

liza 🍊🍊🍊🍊
@lizahar

A1 the affective work is slower so can feel less effective (in short term data driven capitalism) but ultimately gets more done imo #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

A2: One of the things I value about working in xfr collective is the slowness of our work. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Nora Almeida
@nora_almeida

A2: think the challenge is often to get outside of your own insider perspective. Just thinking of stewardship AS care is important #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
Skelly Wooten
@kellywooten

A2 As a collector of women's/lgbtq/feminist history, I can't be effective without considering affect/relationships. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten
@kellywooten

*but* that has made it hard to differentiate between personal/professional life in social media and friendships #critlib A2

4 MONTHS AGO

amanda d.
@ephemeramanda

a2 i think this is where listening vs the urge to speak/relate/etc is important. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

A2 It is hard to be emotionally open when you don't have good relationships with your colleagues/ have a toxic working environment. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

amanda d.
@ephemeramanda

@DinahHandel toxic environment can also be from *lack* of emotional boundaries a2 #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith
@infomartian

I also think the effectiveness of affective work is determined in part by working environment & if you have a supportive team A2 #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
rosemary k. j. davis
@widelight
A2: incredibly hard to maintain emotional balance when dealing directly w/donors, working w/collex that have difficult materials #critlib
4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel
A2: I've never been a manager but if I ever am, I hope to make space for vulnerability in my workplace and with colleagues. #critlib
4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel
@lizarah I'm not entirely sure, but I felt like @BarnardArchives made a lot of space for vulnerability when I was a grad fellow! #critlib
4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith
@infomartian
(not to harp on the 5th affective responsibility...) A2 #critlib
4 MONTHS AGO

Small Group Work 👫
@lemurchild
A2: I think it's important to realize that how open you can be can change, and to be flexible and forgiving of yourself and others. #critlib
4 MONTHS AGO

Jidaaaaaaaaana!!!
@gmecagni
#critlib A2 I'm in the same boat as @kellywooten -- almost no differential between life and work at the moment
4 MONTHS AGO
Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

A2: I have a lot of privilege in being able to share my political and emotional views with superior, others don't have this. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Charlie BrownsGhost 😊
@kcrowe

A1: We have sev archival collx where multi living srcs hv id’d creators as queer but subjs didn’t in life, so it’s not in collx rec #critlib twitter.com/DinahHandel/st...

4 MONTHS AGO

karina hagelin
@karinahagelin

sorry #critlib i’m recovering from spinal surgery & my pain is at a 10+ LOL so i’ll just be listening/liking/rt’ing today xoxo

4 MONTHS AGO

rosemary k. j. davis
@widelight

A2: meeting people & seeing evidence of lives lived can instill a sense of responsibility that's doesn't equate to efficient work #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

UNE ME Women Writers
@MEWomenWriters

Jumping in: Cathleen, curator of a women's special collection. As worker and as a supervisor, I always think "we're human first." #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Liz Settoducato 😊
@lizsetto

A2: another challenge is navigating interactions where empathy & respect aren't reciprocated #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
A2: I hope so. My main concern is I don't forget that my work is thru inst lens, and how that makes me complicit in oppression. #critlib twitter.com/DinahHandel/st...

@kcrowe #critlib I think RADICAL empathy starts w/being transparent about pwr relations. If you can't/won't share pwr it's sympathy not empathy

Joining late! I think a lot of this has to do with outreach and empathizing with donors w/out removing ourselves from our duties #critlib twitter.com/dinahhandel/st...

A2 building communities of mutual support so crucial to staying grounded-thru workplaces, prof orgs, other groups of memory workers #critlib

@lizahar yes!!! I am eternally grateful to my community of information workers for keeping me grounded and on-point. #critlib

#critlib A2: when performing outreach, particularly w/ activist archiving, vulnerability 4 me is stepping back & not dominating the convo 1/2
Katrina Vandeven
@khvandeven

#critlib A2: It's hard to leave behind authority but empathy that comes w/ recognizing standpoint is crucial. Accuracy and community use 2/2

4 MONTHS AGO

Snowden Becker
@snowdenbecker

A2: I recently learned the tech/UX term "thanatosensitivity," in which death/dying is openly a part of design. Archives need this! #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

@snowdenbecker woah, awesome! I wonder if there are any resources on this that we can share... #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Snowden Becker
@snowdenbecker

@DinahHandel This paper introduced concept: dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?i.... DM me if you want a PDF & I’ll leverage my access privilege for you! ;-) #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Snowden Becker
@snowdenbecker

@DinahHandel H/T to Guy Edmonds for mentioning the term to me in relation to the Home Movie Living Will (centerforhomemovies.org/a-living-will/) #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten 🌟
@kellywooten

@DinahHandel @snowdenbecker Pastoral care training for archivists! #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
Q3. When do the tenets of our profession complicate or uplift our capacity to be radically empathetic?

Skelly Wooten @kellywooten
Q3: When do the tenets of our profession complicate or uplift our capacity to be radically empathetic? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Nora Almeida @nora_almeida
Have to jump out to teach. Will catch up with this thread tomorrow. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Snowden Becker @snowdenbecker
...but have to withhold open judgment while maintaining relationships with record creators who have answers I need to make change. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel @DinahHandel
A3: Really curious about the discussion around MPLP that happened at #ddhr on Friday. Can anyone who was there summarize? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith @infomartian
A3 I sometimes catch myself being less empathetic than I could be for the very reason that I'm "supposed to be" a "professional" #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
kind of in between/around answers but: I'm thinking about how backlogs might hinder relationship-building in spec coll & archives #critlib

also staff turnover--like, how can these relationships be sustained when work moves slowly or people w/institutional memory leave? #critlib

@lizsetto ooh yes, interesting. levels of processing to make colls. look "good" for donors vs which colls. get left behind + #critlib

@lizsetto + prioritization & what values/bias are reflected there, how that affects relationships w donors & potential donors #critlib

Q3 This isn't necessarily a tenet but there is tension between conservation/security and open access to collections by the public #critlib

[This should have been A3] #critlib twitter.com/kellywooten/st...
UNE ME Women Writers @MEWomenWriters

A3: When we allow "neutrality" to pretend to erase our biases. We must acknowledge the perspectives we bring. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith @infomartian

and my own internalized notions of what that means. something I'm working on A3 #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel @DinahHandel

A3: I'm wondering what we lose when we use MPLP? Another tension of prioritizing access over richer description/organization? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox @violetbfox

@DinahHandel A3. (As a not-archivist:) MPLP shifts work burden from archivists to user. Up to users to research context & do extra searching. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox @violetbfox

@DinahHandel Shifting burden can be okay if you're upfront about it--do archivists publicly note when MPLP has been used? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel @DinahHandel

@violetbfox Good question! An institution might have that documented, but unlikely to be known outside the "field"... #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
WORDSMITH SYNERGY
@TheGnarrator
A3: when those in positions of power demand our empathy (often at the expense of marginalized folx) #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith
@infomartian
thinking on Q3 wrt recent discussion abt volunteer labor in archives. how do we advocate for our professional expertise while... #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

rosemary k. j. davis
@widelight
A3: statistics, $$$, deadlines, presenting vencer of "neutrality" --> these things can hamper meaningful empathetic interactions #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Meg Edison
@edison_meg
A3 being in school, there's lots of focus on access, but radical empathy = knowing when complete/open access isn't the right call #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Liz Settducato
@lizsetto
OK I have to go teach now--can't wait to catch up on this convo later. :) #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith
@infomartian
remaining open to including other voices? A3 #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
A3: Also thinking about how we place high monetary value on objects, which requires security measures & hinders access by users. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

A3: Obviously materials are valuable, but having increased security presence, required ID, etc. can make archives unappealing to visit. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

@DinahHandel I was comparing the requirement to show photo IDs to unfair voter ID laws--who are we keeping out? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

A3: How do we use our powers of description to bring records creators voices to the center? How can we promote materials broadly? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

A3: Problematic unempathetic habits of our field: 1. Unpaid internships #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

[It is hard not to say YES! and heart all the comments on this #critlib while moderating]

4 MONTHS AGO
A3: The labor of archives is frequently rendered invisible and that can create the columbusing delusion by some users #critlib

4 months ago

Laura BRAAAIINS!tein
@laurabrarian
"columbusing delusion" = when researchers "discover" something in a "dusty archive" that we always knew was there? love it #critlib twitter.com/TheGnarrator/s...

4 months ago

Jidaaaaaaaana!!!
@gmecagni
A3: 2/ Barriers to access---- IDs, collections behind paywalls a.la. @DinahHandel #critlib

4 months ago

Small Group Work 🥇
@lemurchild
A3: Recently I've been pondering the emphasis of records creators/collectors as the primary name being lifted up. #critlib

4 months ago

Small Group Work 🥇
@lemurchild
...who gets to be a collection creator/collector? Who has that privilege? #critlib A3

4 months ago

Diana Bowers-Smith
@infomartian
"it’s hard to leave behind authority" gets at the heart of so much of this discussion #critlib twitter.com/khvandeven/sta...

4 months ago
jordanclaire
@jordanclaire

A3: I wrote about archiving sex workers' lives last year, in which I contradict the ACA's code of ethics microformed.net/deciding-when--... #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Jennifer Douglas
@archivingeye

Good question! Join in #critlib on radical empathy in archives. twitter.com/kellywooten/st...

4 MONTHS AGO

CharlieBrownsGhost 🎚
@kcrowe

A3: I try to speak to every donor as if I'm talking to myself, asking about donation of my family papers. 1/2 #critlib twitter.com/kellywooten/st...

4 MONTHS AGO

CharlieBrownsGhost 🎚
@kcrowe

Also, you are often in convo w folks facing mortality, in pain, which can affect ability to have "reasonable" conversations. 2/2 #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Katrina Vandeven
@khvandeven

A3: It think a lot of it comes down to interpretation and practice of the tenets, and the environment we archive in 1/2 #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Katrina Vandeven
@khvandeven

A3: But the domination we grant/the profession grants us complicates the relationship w/ record creators/donors + w/ materials 2/2 #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Q4. How do we create a radically empathetic 5th relationship between archivists? What might that look like?
Q4: How do we create a radically empathetic 5th relationship between archivists? What might that look like? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

A4 Radical empathy for our colleagues looks like: information/resource sharing, reallocating resources to retain diverse staff #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

A4: Make salaries publicly available. For all levels of staff. Also always, always include salary range in job postings. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

A4: if anyone is interested in organizing nyc-based radical empathy in archival practice meet up group lmk! #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

@lizahar i would also love something like a radical empathy/archives slack—somewhere where conversations can grow & develop across distance #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

@widelight @lizahar This sounds like a great idea! We also have the radical empathy tumblr to promote folk’s work/ideas: radical-empathy.tumblr.com #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

A4: We've already touched on this a bit, but recognizing the humanity and wholeness of the people you work with is necessary. #critlib

Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox

#critlib A4. Understanding/acknowledging the root of problems: discussion re: paying folks is valid but at essence about power/priorities.

Snowden Becker
@snowdenbecker

A4: Assuming honorable intent is really hard when you see harm happening, but it can frame critical confrontations more effectively #critlib

CharlieBrownsGhost 🐦
@kcrowe

@snowdenbecker Exactly! Mostly I'm trying to keep in mind that process of transferring such personal content is deeply emotional & factor it in! #critlib

Diana Bowers-Smith
@infomartian

A4 support students & new professionals. reach out, offer guidance. pay your interns. mentor. reach behind you on the ladder. #critlib

Dinah Handel
@DinahlHandel

A4: I think if you have power somehow, as hiring manager or supervisor, you could work to redistribute that power among colleagues. #critlib
A4 Acknowledge work that goes beyond the shiny and new. Acknowledge the emotional labor that goes into sustaining/maintaining (in addition to creating). #critlib

@barkivist

4 MONTHS AGO

A4: it looks like open communication between departments, assuming good intentions, addressing misunderstandings calmly #critlib

@kellywooten

4 MONTHS AGO

A4: Making space for the voices of those you work side-by-side with every day, seeing them as human, helping them see you as human #critlib

@widelight

4 MONTHS AGO

A4: Don’t expect others to be perfect. They will have plenty of weaknesses + they’re not going to change. Just like you. And me. 😖 #critlib

@lemurchild

4 MONTHS AGO

What does that actually look like? More shared decision making? Equal prof dev resources? Taking time to be present w/ one another? #critlib

@DinahHandel

4 MONTHS AGO

@DinahHandel I wonder if we could have sliding scale professional development funding--more $ for those who earn less #critlib

@kellywooten

4 MONTHS AGO
A4 listen to colleagues in allied fields (for me that means listening to all of you) & bring it back to your professional community #critlib

A4 Also, acknowledge that working at certain institutions brings a great amount of privilege - in terms of what the archives can do and what you as the archivist can do. #critlib

@barkivist #critlib agreed on acknowledging privilege part, especially because u connect this to naming limits on your actions&what pw can be shared

A4 I think about how to not abuse the power I have as a supervisor. I advocate for everyone’s needs, treat all as people w/ideas. #critlib

A4 Clarity about what we lose when we depend on volunteer work (essentially: clarity about our values) enables worthwhile disc. #critlib

@DinahHandel And sometimes not prying. #critlib
Skelly Wooten 🧵@kellywooten

I'm always thinking about how working at a well-resourced place can benefit my colleagues across the state. #critlib twitter.com/barkivist/stat...

Dinah Handel 🧵@DinahHandel

@kellywooten yes! One possibility is cost-sharing. If you have the resources, can you shoulder more of the cost of a collaborative project? #critlib

Skelly Wooten 🧵@kellywooten

Bumping parts of this conversation into #critlib A4 twitter.com/NicoleG_Haus/s...

Q5. How can we navigate conflicting responsibilities between affective relationships? Which relationships do we prioritize?

Skelly Wooten 🧵@kellywooten

Q5 How can we navigate conflicting responsibilities between affective relationships? Which relationships do we prioritize? #critlib
when you see #critlib is trending for you pic.twitter.com/oR56gbMFr

80s WHITE GIRL NAME @SNOYLNA · 4 MONTHS AGO

Jidaaaaaaaaana!!
@gmecagni

@kellywooten For me, the prioritization changes over time, depending on whether or not the donor is still living A5 #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox 🐱
@violetbfox

A5. Emphasize the relationships that haven’t historically been considered. Privilege folks who haven’t historically been in convo. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Small Group Work 🤝
@lemurchild

Random #critlib related thought: I’m worried that newer (especially activist and underrepresented community) orgs don’t get collected b/c 1/

4 MONTHS AGO
Small Group Work 📣
@lemurchild

they don’t fit into the notion of orgs that we are used to collecting. Dispersed, non-centralized, largely digital. #critlib 2/

4 MONTHS AGO

Small Group Work 📣
@lemurchild

and yet SO important. How do we change our practice or come up with new practices to do this work? We need to change, not them. #critlib 3/3

4 MONTHS AGO

Katrina Vandeven
@khvandeven

@lemurchild I think it’s our responsibility to recognize their history as valuable and perform outreach to where they also recognize that #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten 📣
@kellywooten

@lemurchild This is definitely a challenge we experience-- the org's founded in the earlier 2000s still have a paper trail at least. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten 📣
@kellywooten

@lemurchild But even the older groups usually use shared 3rd party digital platforms that have their archives locked down #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten 📣
@kellywooten

@lemurchild PLUS they are the gmail generation and their professional/activist work is usually co-mingled with their personal emails. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
@Gmecagni A5 I am a lot more careful about protecting living donors, and a lot more protective of access when the donor is deceased #critlib

@DianaBowers-Smith A5 is difficult. there's no one answer. we'll always be navigating this balance. we have to choose to be attentive to it every day #critlib

@CharlieBrowsnGhost A5: This shifts depending on context. I prioritize students and contingent labor/non-degreed staff diff dependent on diff stitch. #critlib twitter.com/kellywooten/st...

@CharlieBrowsnGhost (by "non-degreed" I don't mean "ppl without degrees" I mean ppl in jobs that don't req degrees and usually don't pay accordingly). #critlib
Horse Love Heart Grab it=> lovemyhobbies.com/horse-love-hea... #horsetshirt #horseshirt #horsecups #horsetanktops #horsetanktop #critlib pic.twitter.com/P9pfbV1B3

I LOVE HORSES @_IHEARTHORSES · 4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

LOL #critlib <3’s horses twitter.com/_ihearthorses/...

4 MONTHS AGO

Elvia Arroyo-Ramírez
@elvia_arroyo

Sending LOL (lots of love) to #critlib moderators @DinahHandel @kellywooten from #DLFforum @captain_maybe, Holly, and I love you!

4 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox

A5 cont. There will always be folks looking out for the institution's welfare. Aim to be the people who look beyond that. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
Robin Margolis @poeticdoxa

#critlib for all of this I think about how we train&require empathy. Empathy&compassion are practiced&learned. Too often treated as natural

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten @kellywooten

And how much of that "natural" empathy gender-coded? (How is this the first gender comment? Or did I miss one?) #critlib twitter.com/poeticdoxa/sta...

4 MONTHS AGO

Robin Margolis @poeticdoxa

@kellywooten #critlib PRECISELY THIS. Gendering compassion and emotional labor obscures that professionals can improve on this as a skill

4 MONTHS AGO

Robin Margolis @poeticdoxa

@kellywooten #critlib diagnosing the problem as empathy being gendered as femme&POC labor is crucial. At same time, solutions can hold evry1 accountable

4 MONTHS AGO

CharlieBrownsGhost @kcrowe

Realized when trying to describe my male boss, who is (imho) incredibly empathetic, most lang that came to me was feminized. #critlib twitter.com/kellywooten/st...

4 MONTHS AGO

Katrina Vandeven @khvandeven

#critlib Agreed-digitization can only do so much, and the process of ppl using materials can make them feel suspect/profiled twitter.com/kellywooten/st...

4 MONTHS AGO
Diana Bowers-Smith
@infomartian

A5 bottom line is we have to be active in our embrace of radical empathy. not passive or reactive. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Abigail Phillips
@abigailleigh

Really late to the conversation & not an archivist but so happy this convo is happening about empathy within the info. profession. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

A5: I have no idea how to prioritize. I think that looking at situations case by case and with nuance/care is the most we can do. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Jo Polanco
@jopolancoLIS

A3/A5: Good questions to incorporate/examine in LIS education. Programs can be somewhat siloed #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

UNE ME Women Writers
@MEWomenWriters

A5 Here in Wabanaki land, working on nourishing relationships with Native ppl so that we can change what stories are heard. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

rosemary k. j. davis
@widelight

A5: prioritization is constantly in flux + endlessly complex. i try to lean towards whatever path leads toward access & recognition #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
@widelight I think even recognizing that it is possible to have shifting priorities is a big step! There is never a 1-size-fits-all solution. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

liza 🌐 @lizahar

Q5: maintaining radical empathy in each of the 5 relationships helps the others too -ime the conflicts are w institutions/funders! #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith @infomartian

I just gave a talk abt nabe ass’n records. many now don’t even have websites. just facebook groups. #critlib twitter.com/lemurchild/sta...

4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith @infomartian

how to collect? is it even ethical to do so? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox 🌐 @violetbfox

@infomartian Is it up to info professionals to make that decision? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith @infomartian

@violetbfox necessary question. my talk (& thinking) focuses on building relationships w/ these grps so they can tell their own history #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
100% I'm all for application of epistemic equilibrium in archives as both an ideal + as practicable. 1/2 #critlib twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

4 MONTHS AGO

2/2 We need 2 hilite silences in records creation+collection-need to find what is missing and focus on it more than what is present #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

#critlib Also empathy in archives means repositioning perspective 2 that of peripheral pops+recognizing geopolitical nature of knowledge1/2

4 MONTHS AGO

#critlib What we consider 'knowledge' is Euro-centric-need a pluriversal frame of what constitutes knowledge outside of the academy 2/2

4 MONTHS AGO

Conclusions

What a great chat! Sincere thanks to all for participating! Can anyone volunteer to create a storify for this chat? #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

#critlib: If you have ideas for future chat topics, to moderate yourself or suggest, submit them to critlib.org/twitter-chats/...
Skelly Wooten @kellywooten

Whew- this flew by! It's time to pitch your related topics, make an announcement, share a hug, whatever. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

My pitch: check out radical-empathy.tumblr.com and suggest resources to add #critlib pic.twitter.com/TezOnfPG7M

SKELLY WOOTEN @KELLYWOOTEN - 4 MONTHS AGO

rosemary k. j. davis @widelight

thank you all so much for sharing. i'm really eager to read back through everyone's responses. #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith @infomartian

amazing how quickly an hour goes! Thanks for moderating @kellywooten and @DinahHandel #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
Dinah Handel  
@DinahHandel

#critlib My pitch is for folks to keep having these conversations! I'm always happy to chat! @lizahar slack is a great idea!

4 MONTHS AGO

Snowden Becker  
@snowdenbecker

@DinahHandel @Wikipedia entry is good too - touches on e-records planning, which is totally archives/archivists' area! bit.ly/2zoUBCF #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO

Miles Kimball Knitting Tot... Get it => icrochetworld.com/miles-kimball-... #crochetbook #critlib #ilovecrochets #crochet #crochets #critlib pic.twitter.com/7UB0LIXdTd

I LOVE CROCHET @ICROCHETYARN · 4 MONTHS AGO

Diana Bowers-Smith  
@infomartian

@khvandeven "Knowledge has often been chained & bound & colonized"--@WalidahImarisha at #saa17 this year #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO
Leslie Kuo
@leslie_kuo

WHAT I just realized it was #critlib chat the minute it was over? Feeling so silly! See you next time.

4 MONTHS AGO

robin margolis
@poeticdoxa

Great #critlib! Thx @kellywooten and @DinahHandel for bringing this all about (and all the incredible work you do for the profession)

4 MONTHS AGO

CharlieBrownsGhost 🌼
@kcrowe

@ruthbrarian Lots of overlap between #dlfforum and today’s #critlib on radical empathy!

4 MONTHS AGO

Dinah Handel
@DinahHandel

Closer to accurate.... #critlib cc @kellywooten twitter.com/icrochetyarn/s...

4 MONTHS AGO

Skelly Wooten 🌿
@kellywooten

I’m transitioning back to real life at the reading room desk, so if I missed a comment lmk. Thanks, y’all! Hearts to @DinahHandel #critlib

4 MONTHS AGO