#critlib 2018-03-19: vendor relations

Archive of the March 19 2018 #critlib chat on vendor relations, moderated by @greenarchives1 @_cageorge & agngrlibrarian. For more info about #critlib, including past and future chats, visit http://critlib.org.



Violet Fox 😂 avioletbfox

Monday's #critlib chat will be about vendor relations, discussing ethical considerations in the relationships between library workers, library organizations, & vendors. Suggested resources & questions at critlib.org/vendor-relatio....



🄰 5 DAYS AGO



Violet Fox 🥰 @violetbfox

Thanks to the group of law librarians who were interested in discussing this topic after last December's discussion of LexisNexis signing on to help build ICE's Extreme Vetting surveillance system. #critlib



5 DAYS AGO



Violet Fox 😂 @violetbfox

Please check out the suggested readings to refresh your memory on the controversy, especially after a post critical of LexisNexis was censored from an American Association of Law Libraries blog. critlib.org/vendor-relatio... #critlib



🍧 5 DAYS AGO



Violet Fox 😂 @violetbfox

Should be an interesting #critlib chat for any library worker who works with vendor products (all of us!). I'd like to specifically invite vendor employees to participate the chat if they feel comfortable doing so. Anonymous tweeting will be available at tinyurl.com/anoncritlib.



🍧 5 DAYS AGO



Looking forward to another README-relevant #critlib chat, this one on "vendor relations" with @greenarchives1 @_cageorge @gngrlibrarian on Monday, March 19 critlib.org/vendor-relatio...





A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

Join the #critlib chat this afternoon to discuss this very thing! twitter.com/spencerwoodman...





Christine George

@_cageorge

Join us today @ 2pm eastern #critlib twitter.com/zinelib/status...





RIPS-SIS @RIPS_SIS

#Critlib Twitter Chat on 3/19 at 2pmET/1pmCT ripslawlibrarian.wordpress.com/2018/03/19/cri...





Ginger Law Librarian

@gngrlibrarian

#critlib We're starting the discussion about vendor relations. Please introduce yourself: MONDAY 11 am Pacific / noon Mountain / 1 pm Central / 2 pm Eastern #critlib about ethical vendor relationships moderated by @greenarchives1 @_cageorge @gngrlibrarian





Ginger Law Librarian

@gngrlibrarian

If you would prefer to tweet anonymously during the #critlib chat, you can use the critlib anonymous Twitter relay: tinyurl.com/anoncritlib. Type your comments, and hit "Tweet". You'll see your tweet posted via the @CritLib_anon account.





Christine George. I'm a Faculty & Scholarly Services Librarian #critlib





A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

Hi all! Ashley, academic law library associate director in Florida. #critlib





Jen Hoyer @jenhoyer

@gngrlibrarian @greenarchives1 @_cageorge Jen Hoyer, public librarian and community archivist who spent three years on the vendor side of things. Watching this #critlib chat while prepping a lesson on how to use primary sources...





Ginger Law Librarian agngrlibrarian

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#critlib Jamie Baker Interim Law Library Director at Texas Tech.





Nora Almeida @nora_almeida

Hi All. I'm Nora, Academic librarian in NYC. #critlib





Sarah Lamdan @greenarchives1

Sarah Lamdan, CUNY Law librarian & prof #critlib





Elizabeth Dill, academic library director at Troy University. #critlib



Q1. What obligations do vendors have to end-users of their products? What obligations do vendors have to library workers? #critlib



Sarah Lamdan Sarah Lamgan @greenarchives1

Hi, all. Here's the first question: What obligations do vendors have to end-users of their products? What obligations do vendors have to library workers? #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Sarah Lamdan @greenarchives1

Follow up question: Do you think that the same ethical code that applies to library professionals should apply to the products that libraries use? #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Jen Hoyer @jenhoyer

@greenarchives1 A1: Vendors should be allies #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

A1. We're ALL responsible for transparency, vendors and librarians alike. All deserve to know what data is being kept and where it's going. We have an obligation to be honest with our users. #critlib twitter.com/greenarchives1...



2 DAYS AGO



Ginger Law Librarian @gngrlibrarian

#critlib A1: I'm not sure that they have any obligations to end users or library users. The vendors are proprietary and want to maximize profits. They likely have an obligation to shareholders. This creates a conflict for librarians who are concerned with ethics.





Christine George

@_cageorge

A1 I'd like to believe that the same code should apply--particularly since some of the vendors have library backgrounds, but that doesn't seem to be how it actually plays out. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Nora Almeida @nora_almeida

@greenarchives1 At the very least: transparency. And compliance with FERPA in an academic setting. Ideally: we have a choice to not use vendors who don't live up to professional values. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Christine George

@_cageorge

@AKrenelkaChase I agree, but it's difficult to be honest with the users when it seems like vendors are trying to keep information from library professionals. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

@gngrlibrarian But does being proprietary mean that we don't have the right to know where our information goes? #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Megan Wacha @megwacha

Agreed. The onus is on libraries to contractually require the policies we want to see. #critlib twitter.com/gngrlibrarian/...



2 DAYS AGO



Ginger Law Librarian

@gngrlibrarian

#critlib A1 follow up: In law libraries, we are bound by the license agreements that we sign with the major legal database vendors. We are often required to provide parity in teaching content. Without regard to vendor ethics.





Ex: I was told by 1 vendor rep they don't keep student usage data. Her boss told me they do. I think we're entitled to know the truth and so are our students. #critlib





A1:Some of the latest OER for-profit publishers seem to illustrate a profound dichotomy #critlib twitter.com/greenarchives1...





Jen Hoyer @jenhoyer

@megwacha Agreed! I think that, while many vendors are concerned with maximizing profit, that doesn't have to be a conflict with libraries if libraries expert the power they have in their wallets and will only let the vendor MAKE profits if they provide what libraries demand. #critlib





A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

@gngrlibrarian This is so hard since we *should* be teaching skills, not databases. But since we have to teach to the platform the parity puts us in an impossible position. #critlib



Q2. What obligations do library workers have regarding ethical considerations in their relationships with vendors? (as information/product gatekeepers? as people who maximize access to information and rely on vendors to those ends?) #critlib



Sarah Lamdan @greenarchives1

Here's Q2 - What obligations do library workers have regarding ethical considerations in their relationships with vendors? (as information/product gatekeepers? as people who maximize access to information and rely on vendors to those ends?) #critlib





Ginger Law Librarian

@gngrlibrarian

#critlib The power dynamic is off. We saw this with the LexisNexis ICE issue and our professional association. How can we uphold our ethical standards when we have no protection. Is any law library willing to forego the major legal databases?



2 DAYS AGO



Nora Almeida @nora_almeida

@AKrenelkaChase @gngrlibrarian We have whatever rights we are willing to negotiate and are able to get into a vendor licensing agreement. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Jen Hoyer @jenhoyer

@AKrenelkaChase I'd have to agree that some vendors can be disastrous at managing user data; I'd love to see the librarians who sign the checks demand more on that end, and torecognize that they have a lot of power to make change if they work together on asking for better from vendors. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Megan Wacha @megwacha

Of course, I'd prefer to see us move away from vendors entirely and towards building something together. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

@nora_almeida @gngrlibrarian Agreed. And being able to walk away is key. But what if we aren't in a position to walk away? #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Christine George @_cageorge

@jenhoyer @megwacha The issue with that, though, is if the libraries have enough power. @gngrlibrarian brought up a good point about forced parity in law libraries. There's not enough power to negotiate. #critlib



🄰 2 DAYS AGO



@nora_almeida @AKrenelkaChase Will our institutions support us? #critlib





A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

@gngrlibrarian @nora_almeida Will our profession? #critlib





Nora Almeida @nora_almeida

A2. I think we can tell our patrons what we know about vendor privacy policies, algorithms, etc. I don't "teach databases" and I'll tell anyone who wants to listen about the publishers I wont work with. #critlib





Sarah Lamdan @greenarchives1

@gngrlibrarian Forgoing traditional legal databases leaves our students unprepared for practice, yet the available options are problematic. It illustrates the dangers of allowing information that should be free to be controlled by for-profit vendors. We're boxed in. #critlib





Ginger Law Librarian @gngrlibrarian

#critlib Does anyone have an example of a librarian standing up to a vendor over ethical issues and it turning out well?





Christine George

@_cageorge

@AKrenelkaChase @gngrlibrarian @nora_almeida We know the answer when it comes to the profession. With the institution, it's hard to guess because of silos. Would anyone outside of the library have enough info to want to take a stand? #critlib



@gngrlibrarian #critlib (especially not in law libraries) pic.twitter.com/MQCMxtXKpN A. KRENELKA CHASE @AKRENELKACHASE · 2 DAYS AGO



Megan Wacha @megwacha

@gngrlibrarian It's something an individual librarian can do, but it will have more power if multiple libraries do it together. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Megan Wacha @megwacha

@_cageorge @AKrenelkaChase @gngrlibrarian @nora_almeida Some institutions have started including faculty and admins in the negotiation process, so they can see what the libraries cannot share. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Jen Hoyer @jenhoyer

@greenarchives1 A2: library workers shouldn't kill the transparency vendors DO offer! When I worked for a vendor that was recognized for its transparent pricing, I was asked by a library worker (purchaser) to give him the kind of not-transparent deal other vendors do. Not not okay. #critlib





A2. Again, I think it goes back to transparency. I always try to tell our users if I know information is being tracked but, in cases where I can't even get that information from a vendor, it's hard to stay on the up-and-up #critlib





Christine George @_cageorge

@AKrenelkaChase @gngrlibrarian Was this even much of an issue previously? It seems to be a recent development to push back at the vendors. #critlib





Christine George

@_cageorge

@megwacha @AKrenelkaChase @gngrlibrarian @nora_almeida I think that's a really important step to making some progress. It can't just be seen as a librarian issue. #critlib





Nora Almeida @nora_almeida

@gngrlibrarian I think we also need to consider institutional constraints. The insulating bureaucracy of the procurement process limits our capacity for autonomy even if we're willing to take a stand. Systemic change is the only answer which means working together. #critlib





Jen Hoyer @jenhoyer

@nora_almeida @AKrenelkaChase @gngrlibrarian Definitely! And, we have more power if institutions work together. So, so much power. To be honest, I think that the libraries with the biggest budgets actually have a responsibility to lead the way on this. #Critlib





Ginger Law Librarian

@gngrlibrarian

@megwacha @_cageorge @AKrenelkaChase @nora_almeida That's interesting. Maybe that's what we need to do. Get our administration to take notice and be more involved in contract negotiations. #critlib





Hi #critlib colleagues, I'm Mark and I'm the Scholarly Communications Librarian at Case Western Reserve University. Good topic today!





Nora Almeida @nora_almeida

@jenhoyer @AKrenelkaChase @gngrlibrarian Can't say enough about the power of the consortia too. Even underfunded librarians have a lot of muscle if they stick together. #critlib





A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

@_cageorge @gngrlibrarian When we had all the money in the world I think the perception was there was no need to push back. But we no longer live in that world. #critlib





Sarah Lamdan @greenarchives1

@_cageorge @AKrenelkaChase @gngrlibrarian I think this may be in part because the nature of information vendors has changed dramatically, moving from curated collections of content to this model where huge data mills are buying up and aggregating the curated collections to become mega-vendors. #critlib





A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

I agree. I don't have enough fingers and toes to count the number of times a vendor has said to me "well this isn't an issue for X, Y, or Z library" that I know has a largely-endowed and well-funded budget. #critlib twitter.com/jenhoyer/statu...

2 DAYS AGO

Q3. What obligations do professional organizations have in maintaining ethical relations with vendors? #critlib



Here's Q3) Q3. What obligations do professional organizations have in maintaining ethical relations with vendors? #critlib





Christine George

@_cageorge

@greenarchives1 @AKrenelkaChase @gngrlibrarian It's a terrifying thought. Just think about the info vendors can gather from the searches done...as well as dictate the results from searches. Going down that rabbit hole, you could see the legal system turned on its head. #critlib





Marcos @marklclemente

At Vendors have whatever obligations we push them to accept when we negotiate content licenses. We can try to ensure a few things, e.g that they don't infringe users' privacy when collecting data; that we aren't pushed to be in a policing role w/ respect to their privacy #critlib





Christine George @_cageorge

Q3 They've got to keep the vendors honest. Professional organizations are the best hope to organize libraries #critlib





Ginger Law Librarian

@gngrlibrarian

#critlib With the LexisNexis / ICE blog post, one of the reasons it had to be taken down was antitrust concerns. Some read it as a call to action against Lexis and feared the lawsuits that may arise. I haven't looked into the validity of that claim, but fear of lawsuits is real.





Nora Almeida @nora_almeida

@greenarchives1 A3. Professional organizations are responsible for upholding professional values and should be beholden to their members. I would support my prof. orgs more if they would actually take a stand on issues I care about instead of being corporate apologists. #critlib





@AKrenelkaChase @_cageorge @gngrlibrarian An oldie but goodie: theguardian.com/science/2012/a... #critlib





A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

@greenarchives1 A3. Our orgs are here for libraries, not for vendors. They should support libraries and librarians and make our relationships with vendors easier. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Christine George @_cageorge

@nora_almeida @greenarchives1 I agree. I think that the tendency with professional organizations is to be more conservative for fear of offending members. It's staying bland so as to maintain member numbers, #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

@greenarchives1 Professional orgs pay a lot of lip service to wanting what's best for members (including going so far as to rebrand the entire organization, in some cases) but fall short when it comes to standing up for the libraries, themselves. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Sarah Lamdan @greenarchives1

A3: I think professional library organizations should be allies, and should uphold their ethical standards, especially where vendors are involved. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Jen Hoyer @jenhoyer

@greenarchives1 A3: One issue is that sometimes our professional orgs represent libraries, and sometimes library workers. As libraries have shifted towards (sometimes) identifying themselves as corporations, the orgs that represent them may have shifted towards corporate-like interests. #critlib





#critlib A3: The professional associations are so reliant on vendors to support conferences, etc...
I've heard them likened to a glorified networking opportunity. And then there's the fear of lawsuits.

2 DAYS AGO

Q4. How do we ensure library workers are able to engage in discussion about the ethical use of vendor products? #critlib



Sarah Lamdan @greenarchives1

Our final #critlib chat question: Q4. How do we ensure library workers are able to engage in discussion about the ethical use of vendor products?





Nora Almeida @nora_almeida

Got to duck out early for ref desk shift. Thanks for chatting! #critlib





Sarah Lamdan @greenarchives1

@jenhoyer I also wonder about the role of information/data vendors as org sponsors. It seems that orgs depending on vendor sponsorship could complicate solutions to ethical issues. #critlib





Ginger Law Librarian @gngrlibrarian

A4: This one is tough. Most academic law librarians do not have tenure or any protection at all. It's like a David & Goliath situation. #critlib





Jen Hoyer @jenhoyer

@greenarchives1 A4 I think this can sometimes be an issue of the procurement process -- if library workers are cut off from official contract negotation in the procurement process, their voices don't get heard and some issues won't get caught #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

@greenarchives1 A4. The obvious answer is contracts or other actual legal protections for speaking out against vendors. *files away as something that isn't going to happen for most of us" #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Alyson Drake @DrakeAlyson

A4: #critlib This is challenging. It's hard to know what the ramifications of speaking out might be. We saw that speaking out using any "official channels" of our professional organizations was not okay. This means you're effectively out there with no support. twitter.com/greenarchives1...



🌓 2 DAYS AGO



Ginger Law Librarian @gngrlibrarian

A4: Do we create an anonymous #angrylibrarians group? #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Alyson Drake @DrakeAlyson

@gngrlibrarian Count me in. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Marcos @marklclemente

A4 Collaborative "negotiation committees" that utilize an org's diverse expertise - subject experts, acquisitions folks, scholcommies, access services - & holistically look at what rights we want in vendor licenses can very useful #critlib





@gngrlibrarian My issue with that is that makes this seem emotional rather than logical. Standing up for ourselves and our libraries isn't something we're doing because of a visceral emotional reaction; it's what's right. #critlib





Christine George @_cageorge

@DrakeAlyson @gngrlibrarian I think that would make for some fantastic merch...which is definitely not the point #critlib





Megan Wacha @megwacha

A4 I think there's an incredible power in dreaming. Let's build the contracts we want to see, independent of the vendor.1/ #critlib





Marcos @marklclemente

Q3 One good thing that professional orgs have done is to create model licenses - I'm thinking LIBLICENSE from C&RL or the NERL model license #critlib





Alyson Drake @DrakeAlyson

I completely agree. I just think we have this tendency to see the same "big name" vendors talking about the same things year in and year out. A little diversity in which vendors are presenting would go a long way--and we might actually learn something new. #critlib twitter.com/jenhoyer/statu...





Christine George @_cageorge

@DrakeAlyson And the fallout could be against the librarian's institution as well which could lead to informally blacklisting the librarian. #critlib





Megan Wacha @megwacha

and then let's talk about why want those things so we can walk into negotiations more prepared. And, at the very least, with more knowledge about what we're signing away 2/2 #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Marcos @marklclemente

A4 I also think more basic training on license negotiation would be welcomed at our conferences, it's something that a lot of folks just don't know much about & I think we could use more training in the same way we do copyright training #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Christine George

@_cageorge

@megwacha I want to believe that's possible, but I've seen how vendors have offered perks to certain libraries, playing them against each other. I don't think that libraries will be in a position to dictate terms unless there is some radical change. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Ginger Law Librarian

@gngrlibrarian

@marklclemente This is a wonderfully proactive approach. I haven't seen much on this type of training, and it's definitely needed! #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Christine George

@_cageorge

@DrakeAlyson Even unofficially, it's entirely too possible to be professionally shunned. Most aren't in a position to be able to withstand that. #critlib



2 DAYS AGO



Alyson Drake @DrakeAlyson

I'd love to see a program on this at next year's conference. #critlib twitter.com/marklclemente/...





Jen Hoyer @ienhover

@_cageorge @megwacha If the vendor knows those libraries are talking to each other about this -- if they know WE'RE allies for each other -- they'll be less likely to do this. They only try this when they think we're too embarrassed to talk to each other about what we pay for stuff. #critlib





A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

@DrakeAlyson @chsconf always does great stuff in this area, but not many can afford to go every year #critlib





Ginger Law Librarian @gngrlibrarian

@jenhoyer @_cageorge @megwacha In some cases, I think we're actually precluded from talking about our individual contracts. Smart move vendors. #critlib





Alyson Drake @DrakeAlyson

Completely agree. If enough of us are having these conversations, especially in platforms with big audiences (like conferences). The question is, would a program on requiring vendor ethics ever actually be allowed to be picked up at a conference? #critlib twitter.com/jenhoyer/statu...





A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

@jenhoyer @_cageorge @megwacha Actual words from a vendor "I can't confirm that other libraries are doing that because of the NDA, and they shouldn't be talking to you about it either." It's not right, but it's happening. #critlib





Violet Fox 😂

Feel free to keep chatting, but thanks so much to today's #critlib moderators @greenarchives1 @_cageorge @gngrlibrarian (and apologies to all for the late start, 100% my fault). Check out upcoming chat dates and/or suggest a chat yourself! critlib.org/twitter-chats/...





Maybe it's time to start branching out on conferences. #critlib Or start hijacking their speakers and convincing them to come to the national conference. twitter.com/AKrenelkaChase...



2 DAYS AGO



A. Krenelka Chase @AKrenelkaChase

Thanks for an awesome #critlib chat today! Time to head home to see my tiny people. Damn the (vendor) man. Save the (library) empire.



2 DAYS AGO

@AKrenelkaChase #critlib pic.twitter.com/5MBplofDkj



CHRISTINE GEORGE @_CAGEORGE · 2 DAYS AGO



Marcos @marklclemente

@gngrlibrarian @jenhoyer @_cageorge @megwacha Lots of crappy things appear in vendor licenses but confidentiality clauses should be one of the first to go #critlib





@marklclemente @gngrlibrarian @_cageorge @megwacha I'd guess that, as soon as a big \$\$\$ library governance body passes a "No NDAs in Contracts" clause, the vendors would have to switch this up? I've seen vendors bow to "official policy" in a way they wouldn't bow to plain old demands #critlib

