



## #critlib 2018-10-22: going fee free

122 Items

Archive of the October 22 2018 #critlib chat on "going fee free," moderated by @CleverGirlReads. For more info about critlib, including past and future chats, visit <http://critlib.org>.



**Violet Fox**   
@violetbfbox



Next [#critlib](#) chat is Monday October 22: [@CleverGirlReads](#) will be talking about libraries doing away with fines & fees! How do fines affect the most vulnerable library patrons? How can you make the case for going fee free? [critlib.org/going-fee-free/](http://critlib.org/going-fee-free/) #librarylife

29 10:00 PM - Oct 18, 2018



20 people are talking about this



**Drunkest Librarian** @DrunkestLibrary · Oct 20, 2018



Replying to @DexterSaysMeow @librarianprblms  
FINES FREE'S THE WAY TO BE



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**  
@CleverGirlReads

#critlib is having a twitter discussion on going fine free this monday if you'd like to join us. Info's @ [critlib.org/going-fee-free](http://critlib.org/going-fee-free)

4 12:39 AM - Oct 21, 2018



 See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets >



**Violet Fox** 🦊  
@violetbfox



👉 Relevant to the next #critlib chat on #libraries going fine/fee free! Join @CleverGirlReads Monday Oct 22 at 11am Pacific/2pm Eastern; all library types welcome. Discussion questions: [critlib.org/going-fee-free](http://critlib.org/going-fee-free). [twitter.com/UrbanLibCouncil...](https://twitter.com/UrbanLibCouncil...)

### **Urban Libraries Council** @UrbanLibCouncil

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our newest tool: the Fine Free Map! Explore which libraries across North America have stopped collecting overdue fines, and click on the libraries for more info. Check it out here: [buff.ly/2EEIIWC](http://buff.ly/2EEIIWC)



5 2:17 PM - Oct 20, 2018



See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets >



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads



#critlib Here's another great #library story for our Oct 22 discussion on going Fine Free. Go to [critlib.org/going-fee-free](http://critlib.org/going-fee-free) for more details. Hope to have you there!  
[twitter.com/ckthelibrarian...](https://twitter.com/ckthelibrarian...)

**CKtheLibrarian** @ckthelibrarian

The Fine Free Library: One Year Later – The City Library – Medium [buff.ly/2w98sny](https://buff.ly/2w98sny)



♡ 2 7:57 PM - Oct 20, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#) >



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads



It's time to begin our #critlib chat on going fine/fee free! Everyone, let's do introductions. And remember to include "#critlib" in all of your tweets!

♡ 3 5:59 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#) >



**el**

@Sperviter



#critlib I'm Lisa, an academic librarian in LA. Hi!

♡ 3 6:01 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See el's other Tweets](#) >



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads



I'm Sam. I'm a reference librarian at a public, rural library. I'm also currently working on my MLIS. My Library currently has fines. Mention if your library has fines and fees if you feel comfortable [#critlib](#)

♡ 2 6:01 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#) >



**Lindsay Delaney** ➔ #PNBA2019

@lindsayedelaney



I'm Lindsay, a youth services librarian at a suburban library. Our library recently got rid of late fees on children's materials. [#critlib](#)

♡ 4 6:03 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Lindsay Delaney ➔ #PNBA2019's other Tweets](#) >



**Gina Murrell**

@GinaMurrell1



Hi [#critlib](#)! I'm Gina, a former public librarian & current archivist/digital asset coordinator in the Bay Area. I'll participate in this morning's chat for as long as I'm able!

♡ 4 6:04 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Gina Murrell's other Tweets](#) >



**Michelle Boule** 📚

@wanderingeyre



Howdy [#critlib](#). I am a community college librarian in WY.

♡ 2 6:08 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule 📚's other Tweets](#) >

**Andrew Preater**

@preater



Good evening (in my timezone) humans of #critlib. I'm Andrew, an academic library director with plans to mainly listen to the chat. We do fine.

♡ 2 6:08 PM - Oct 22, 2018

[See Andrew Preater's other Tweets](#)**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads



Welcome everyone! Let's get started with the questions then. Q1. What are the rationales behind charging fines and fees in libraries? How effective are they in meeting those goals? #critlib

♡ 1 6:05 PM - Oct 22, 2018

[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#)**Gina Murrell**

@GinaMurrell1



A1. I honestly don't know the rationale for library fines/fees. Maybe they help fund the library, but isn't that what tax dollars are for? #critlib

♡ 7 6:09 PM - Oct 22, 2018

[See Gina Murrell's other Tweets](#)**Michelle Boule**

@wanderingeyre



A1: We currently charge fines as a deterrent for electronics being late. We do not charge overdue fines for books, but do charge for lost items. I do not think the fees are much of a deterrent. #critlib

♡ 2 6:09 PM - Oct 22, 2018

[See Michelle Boule's other Tweets](#)



**el**  
@Sperviter



#critlib Q1 At its most benign, fines are to get people to participate fairly in a communal space.

♡ 3 6:09 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See el's other Tweets](#)



**Michelle Boule**   
@wanderingeyre



I will go on the record and say that I detest fees. #critlib

♡ 5 6:09 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule !\[\]\(aab88c0d099e5d18d6533a97b13ec28d\_img.jpg\)'s other Tweets](#)



**Michelle Boule**   
@wanderingeyre



A1: We do not even keep the fees we get. They get paid straight to the business office on campus. #critlib

♡ 4 6:10 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule !\[\]\(13163d77073735089069a7603de98433\_img.jpg\)'s other Tweets](#)



**el** @Sperviter · Oct 22, 2018



#critlib Q1 At its most benign, fines are to get people to participate fairly in a communal space.



**el**  
@Sperviter

And although fines probably pay for things, they are punitive and not a given (except they probably are); fees seem designed to pay for things. #critlib

♡ 4 6:11 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See el's other Tweets](#)





**Lindsay Delaney** SOON #PNBA2019  
@lindsayedelaney



A1: I haven't been involved in setting fines or fees, but my understanding of library fines in general is that the goal has been to promote responsible library use.

#critlib

3 6:12 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See Lindsay Delaney SOON #PNBA2019's other Tweets >



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**  
@CleverGirlReads



#critlib, Some libraries use fines for funding, but in reality late fines make up a small amount of library funding. Most libraries rationalize their implementation by saying they deter the later return of materials. But is that really true? [twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...](https://twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/status/1014418031031042816)

**Gina Murrell** @GinaMurrell1

A1. I honestly don't know the rationale for library fines/fees. Maybe they help fund the library, but isn't that what tax dollars are for? #critlib

3 6:12 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets >



**Michelle Boule** E @wanderingeyre · Oct 22, 2018



A1: We currently charge fines as a deterrent for electronics being late. We do not charge overdue fines for books, but do charge for lost items. I do not think the fees are much of a deterrent. #critlib



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**  
@CleverGirlReads

#critlib Can you tell us more about why you think it's not a deterrent?

6:12 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets >

**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo



Hi, I'm Leslie, librarian for intercultural inclusion at one of the 13 public library districts in Berlin, Germany. All Berlin public libraries use the same fine/fee schedule. #critlib

♡ 6 6:13 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets

**Gina Murrell** @GinaMurrell1 · Oct 22, 2018

A1. I honestly don't know the rationale for library fines/fees. Maybe they help fund the library, but isn't that what tax dollars are for? #critlib

**Gina Murrell**

@GinaMurrell1

A1.2 I see some saying fees are intended as a deterrent for late returns, but patrons still return items late. Hell, even LIBRARIANS return stuff late, so fines/fees are not very effective. #critlib

♡ 8 6:13 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See Gina Murrell's other Tweets

**Michelle Boule** 🇫🇷 @wanderingeyre · Oct 22, 2018

A1: We do not even keep the fees we get. They get paid straight to the business office on campus. #critlib

**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads

#critlib I've heard that before in relation to academic libraries. Have they told you the reason for that?

♡ 6:14 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets >



**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...** · Oct 22, 2018

#critlib, Some libraries use fines for funding, but in reality late fines make up a small amount of library funding. Most libraries rationalize their implementation by saying they deter the later return of materials. But is that really true? [twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...](https://twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/status/105000000000000000)

**Gina Murrell** @GinaMurrell1

A1. I honestly don't know the rationale for library fines/fees. Maybe they help fund the library, but isn't that what tax dollars are for? #critlib



**el**

@Sperviter

Honestly, I'm terrible at returning books on time. SMPL hit my credit rating [#nojoke](#) [#critlib](#)

3 6:14 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See el's other Tweets](#)



**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...** · Oct 22, 2018

#critlib, Some libraries use fines for funding, but in reality late fines make up a small amount of library funding. Most libraries rationalize their implementation by saying they deter the later return of materials. But is that really true? [twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...](https://twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/status/105000000000000000)

**Gina Murrell** @GinaMurrell1

A1. I honestly don't know the rationale for library fines/fees. Maybe they help fund the library, but isn't that what tax dollars are for? #critlib



**Gina Murrell**

@GinaMurrell1

That's what I've suspected. [#critlib](#)

1 6:14 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Gina Murrell's other Tweets](#)





**Lindsay Delaney** ➔ #PNBA2019 @lin... · Oct 22, 2018

A1: I haven't been involved in setting fines or fees, but my understanding of library fines in general is that the goal has been to promote responsible library use. [#critlib](#)



**Lindsay Delaney** ➔ #PNBA2019

@lindsayedelaney

A1: Given the number of people I know who happily pay fines to finish what they're reading, and the stories of families who don't let their kids check things out for fear of fines, I don't think fines always serve the goals of public libraries. [#critlib](#)

♡ 6 6:16 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Lindsay Delaney ➔ #PNBA2019's other Tweets](#) >



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo



A1 My understanding is that Berlin's public library network sees fines/fees as both a deterrent (late fees) and as covering costs specific to the network, such as the "transport charges" for holds from other branches (fees cover the courier service that delivers holds).

[#critlib](#)

♡ 1 6:16 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#) >



**Michelle Boule** 📚 @wanderingeyre · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @CleverGirlReads

(1/2) While I do think students return things that are late to avoid paying a lost/replace fee, they do not care about the over due fee for electronics because it doesn't block their campus account (keep them from registering/graduating).



**Michelle Boule** 📚

@wanderingeyre

(2/2) The students that borrow laptops, calculators, etc. can't afford those items. I am not going to insist they pay \$25 if their laptop is one day overdue. That punishes our poorest students. [#critlib](#)

♡ 6 6:17 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule 📚's other Tweets](#) >



**Gina Murrell** @GinaMurrell1 · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @GinaMurrell1

A1.2 I see some saying fees are intended as a deterrent for late returns, but patrons still return items late. Hell, even LIBRARIANS return stuff late, so fines/fees are not very effective. #critlib



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads

#critlib I'm definitely guilty of it. And the reasons are \*usually valid. When I had about 12 books to return late, it was because I had spent a month in the hospital. Luckily, as staff, I don't accrue late fees, but if I wasn't, it could have been the end of me being a patron.

3 6:17 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets >](#)



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads



Great discussion so far, on to the next question! Q2. Which of our patrons are most directly affected by library fines and fees? In what ways do fines affect patron access to and perception of libraries? #critlib

6:18 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets >](#)



**el** @Sperviter · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @CleverGirlReads

Honestly, I'm terrible at returning books on time. SMPL hit my credit rating #nojoke #critlib



**Michelle Boule**

@wanderingeyre

2 of three of our family cards are blocked because we owe more than \$5 but less than \$10. It's infuriating #critlib

2 6:18 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule 's other Tweets >](#)



**Kevin Seeber**  
@kevinseeber



Hi #critlib! I'm too busy to participate full in today's chat, but stopping by to say that library fines have a lot of overlap with the U.S. cash bail system. They disproportionately impact people w/out \$ resources and are generally classist. Have a great chat!

♡ 51 6:19 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets



**Gina Murrell**  
@GinaMurrell1



Eugene Public Library on Pratt Library going fine-free. I really hope this is the start of a trend. #critlib  
[twitter.com/EugenePublicLi...](http://twitter.com/EugenePublicLi...)

**Eugene Library** @EugenePublicLib

Replying to @GinaMurrell1

❤️ the video on this page: [prattlibrary.org/finefree/](http://prattlibrary.org/finefree/)

♡ 3 6:19 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See Gina Murrell's other Tweets



**Michelle Boule** 📚  
@wanderingeyre



A2: I think the fines hurt our most vulnerable and poorest students most. #critlib

♡ 3 6:19 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See Michelle Boule 📚's other Tweets



**Michelle Boule** 📚 @wanderingeyre · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @Sperviter @CleverGirlReads

2 of three of our family cards are blocked because we owe more than \$5 but less than \$10. It's infuriating #critlib



**el**  
@Sperviter

#critlib For me, it's always beginning and end about people reading. And if fines are detrimental to that goal, then fines are a problem.

♡ 6 6:19 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See el's other Tweets





**Gina Murrell** @GinaMurrell1 · Oct 22, 2018



A1. I honestly don't know the rationale for library fines/fees. Maybe they help fund the library, but isn't that what tax dollars are for? #critlib



**Andrew Preater**

@preater

#critlib A1 IME (in higher education) the circ. policies have been designed with fining included in an attempt at fair access for the most library users to the stock. Also IME, they are not always effective in this.

♡ 4 6:20 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See Andrew Preater's other Tweets



**Michelle Boule**

@wanderingeyre



A2: not my state but From San Diego this year on going fine free and how fines hurt the poor  
[latimes.com/local/lanow/la...](http://latimes.com/local/lanow/la...) #critlib



### **San Diego may eliminate library fines to avoid cutti...**

San Diego may join a national trend of eliminating library fines to avoid cutting off the poor from a vital service and to  
[latimes.com](http://latimes.com)

♡ 2 6:21 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See Michelle Boule 's other Tweets





**Gina Murrell**  
@GinaMurrell1



A2. In my experience as a public librarian, fines/fees largely impact young children or families with young children. [#critlib](#)

♡ 14 6:22 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Gina Murrell's other Tweets](#)



**Lindsay Delaney** ➔ <sup>SOON</sup> #PNBA2019  
@lindsayedelaney



A2: Kids are some of the people most affected by fines. They may not have control over whether they are able to return items on time. [#critlib](#)

♡ 6 6:22 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Lindsay Delaney ➔ #PNBA2019's other Tweets](#)



**Leslie Kuo**  
@leslie\_kuo



A1 forgot to tag [#critlib](#), see below! Addendum: Berlin's libraries have been hit so hard by budget cuts in past 30 years. My district was cut from 20 branches to 8. Some districts only have 3-4 branches to serve 200,000+ ppl. So libraries are reluctant to cut any revenue source.  
[twitter.com/leslie\\_kuo/sta...](https://twitter.com/leslie_kuo/status/1015444110107534848)

**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo  
Replying to @leslie\_kuo

A1 cont'd: I \*personally\* am very interested in fine amnesty/dropping fines as a way to increase inclusion and goodwill, but don't see much interest in this in Berlin yet. Not only due to old-fashioned ideas of "fines as teaching responsibility" but also bc revenue is needed.

♡ 5 6:23 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#)





**Gina Murrell** @GinaMurrell1 · Oct 22, 2018



A2. In my experience as a public librarian, fines/fees largely impact young children or families with young children. #critlib



**Gina Murrell**

@GinaMurrell1

A2.2 We explain to children getting their first library card that they're responsible for books they check out on the card, but children WILL forget...because they're children. #critlib

♡ 5 6:25 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Gina Murrell's other Tweets](#)



**el**

@Sperviter



#critlib A2 People who can't afford it, are ashamed, kids, people for whom systems are complicated anyway, for whom anything that seems like breeching a law of some kind spells trouble (undocumented)

♡ 5 6:25 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See el's other Tweets](#)



**Gina Murrell** @GinaMurrell1 · Oct 22, 2018



A2. In my experience as a public librarian, fines/fees largely impact young children or families with young children. #critlib



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

A2 I agree that fines disproportionately affect the vulnerable. Yes, families & children, and anybody else for whom \$1 or \$0.10 is a lot of money. #critlib

♡ 3 6:25 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#)





**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



A1 forgot to tag **#critlib**, see below! Addendum: Berlin's libraries have been hit so hard by budget cuts in past 30 years. My district was cut from 20 branches to 8. Some districts only have 3-4 branches to serve 200,000+ ppl. So libraries are reluctant to cut any revenue source.

[twitter.com/leslie\\_kuo/sta...](https://twitter.com/leslie_kuo/status/101541110300000000)

**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo

Replies to @leslie\_kuo

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**Violet Fox** 🦊

@violetbfox

**#critlib** That's understandable. Are there any stats available about how much revenue is brought in by fines? In many libraries, it's a pretty negligible percentage.

7 6:25 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets](#)



**eI** @Sperviter · Oct 22, 2018



**#critlib** A2 People who can't afford it, are ashamed, kids, people for whom systems are complicated anyway, for whom anything that seems like breeching a law of some kind spells trouble (undocumented)



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

A2 Yes! I did a study about immigrants in the library. Newcomers may experience library as an intimidating place where they might break rules by accident. Fines heighten this feeling. **#critlib**

7 6:26 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#)





**Lindsay Delaney** SOON #PNBA2019 @lin... · Oct 22, 2018

A2: Kids are some of the people most affected by fines. They may not have control over whether they are able to return items on time. [#critlib](#)



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads

[#critlib](#) This is huge. By charging fines of children's materials, we're suddenly putting librarians in the role of socializing children, which should be the parents jobs. We are suddenly scolding the children and "teaching them responsibility" even though it's not their fault.

♡ 5 6:27 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#) >



**Gina Murrell** @GinaMurrell1 · Oct 22, 2018

Replying to @GinaMurrell1

A2.2 We explain to children getting their first library card that they're responsible for books they check out on the card, but children WILL forget...because they're children. [#critlib](#)



**Gina Murrell**

@GinaMurrell1

A2.3 And families with young children check out piles of books at a time. Inevitably, one or two will slip through the cracks. [#critlib](#)

♡ 4 6:27 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Gina Murrell's other Tweets](#) >



**Violet Fox** @violetbfox · Oct 22, 2018

Replying to @leslie\_kuo

[#critlib](#) That's understandable. Are there any stats available about how much revenue is brought in by fines? In many libraries, it's a pretty negligible percentage.



**el**

@Sperviter

[#critlib](#) I wonder the same thing. I think it can seem minimal but then when budgets are so slashed minimal's not nothing.

♡ 5 6:27 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See el's other Tweets](#) >



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @GinaMurrell1

A2 I agree that fines disproportionately affect the vulnerable. Yes, families & children, and anybody else for whom \$1 or \$0.10 is a lot of money. #critlib



**Gina Murrell**

@GinaMurrell1

Exactly! And if that's their allowance... #critlib

3 6:28 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Gina Murrell's other Tweets](#)



**Michelle Boule**

@wanderingeyre



A2: I think fines are a form of "eat your peas" librarianship where we are trying to force people into doing what we think is best instead of serving them in the way they need most. #critlib

17 6:28 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule 's other Tweets](#)



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @Sperviter

A2 Yes! I did a study about immigrants in the library. Newcomers may experience library as an intimidating place where they might break rules by accident. Fines heighten this feeling. #critlib



**el**

@Sperviter

#critlib Exactly---what does it mean to feel exposed? Your study sounds so interesting; in Berlin, yes?

2 6:28 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See el's other Tweets](#)





**Violet Fox**  @violetbfox · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @leslie\_kuo

#critlib That's understandable. Are there any stats available about how much revenue is brought in by fines? In many libraries, it's a pretty negligible percentage.



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

#critlib There are stats, which I don't have handy, but in our case I think the overdue fees aren't the big revenue source. It may be possible to discuss that sometime. But fees like 10€/year for library cards and up to 3€ for holds from other branches are important income.

3 6:28 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#)



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



A1 forgot to tag #critlib, see below! Addendum: Berlin's libraries have been hit so hard by budget cuts in past 30 years. My district was cut from 20 branches to 8. Some districts only have 3-4 branches to serve 200,000+ ppl. So libraries are reluctant to cut any revenue source.

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**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo

Replying to @leslie\_kuo

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**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads

#critlib I recommend you check out the Library Journal article that we posted in the resources at [critlib.org/going-fee-free](http://critlib.org/going-fee-free) At the end, it talks about whether your library can go fine free, and gives some suggestions if you're worried about revenue. :)

4 6:28 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#)





**Violet Fox** @violetbfox · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @leslie\_kuo

#critlib That's understandable. Are there any stats available about how much revenue is brought in by fines? In many libraries, it's a pretty negligible percentage.



**Maria O'Hara**

@meahara

I've worked in libraries where there is huge appetite among staff to scrap fines. But it brings in so much money it can't be risked unless the institution gets on board too, in case the budget gets cut...which sucks  
#critlib

♡ 4 6:29 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Maria O'Hara's other Tweets](#)



**Michelle Boule**

@wanderingeyre



Sorry to my nonlibrary followers. We are talking about library fines on #critlib chat today. :)

♡ 6:29 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule 's other Tweets](#)



**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...**

· Oct 22, 2018



#critlib, Some libraries use fines for funding, but in reality late fines make up a small amount of library funding. Most libraries rationalize their implementation by saying they deter the later return of materials. But is that really true?  
[twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...](http://twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...)

**Gina Murrell** @GinaMurrell1

A1. I honestly don't know the rationale for library fines/fees. Maybe they help fund the library, but isn't that what tax dollars are for? #critlib



**Kendra Macomber**

@kendracukes

I've had friends in graduate school who would have late books and the fines would get astronomical, but didn't return them because they needed them. We were already paying tuition and these fines were often a burden on students. #critlib

♡ 7 6:29 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Kendra Macomber's other Tweets](#)





**Gina Murrell** @GinaMurrell1 · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @GinaMurrell1

A2.2 We explain to children getting their first library card that they're responsible for books they check out on the card, but children WILL forget...because they're children. #critlib



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads

#critlib and it's not always the children that are responsible. If their parents are not available to bring them to library, that is not the fault of the child, but the child will ultimately suffer because they will no longer be able to use to library once the accrue fines.

Heart 4 6:30 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#) >



**Michelle Boule** 📚 @wanderingeyre · Oct 22, 2018



A2: I think fines are a form of "eat your peas" librarianship where we are trying to force people into doing what we think is best instead of serving them in the way they need most. #critlib



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

Wow, "eat your peas" librarianship is something I will now remember and try to avoid! #critlib

Heart 4 6:31 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#) >



**Violet Fox** 🦉 @violetbfox · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @leslie\_kuo

#critlib That's understandable. Are there any stats available about how much revenue is brought in by fines? In many libraries, it's a pretty negligible percentage.



**Andrew Preater**

@preater

#critlib There are regular FOIs of fines done by journalists here in the UK, so it would be possible to work out their significance alongside other sector statistics. 🤔

Heart 2 6:31 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Andrew Preater's other Tweets](#) >



**el** @Sperviter · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @leslie\_kuo

#critlib Exactly---what does it mean to feel exposed? Your study sounds so interesting; in Berlin, yes?



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

#critlib Yes, I studied lived experiences of immigrants working in public libraries here. They in turn shared observations of immigrants using the library.

♡ 4 6:32 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#)



**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...** · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @GinaMurrell1

#critlib and it's not always the children that are responsible. If their parents are not available to bring them to library, that is not the fault of the child, but the child will ultimately suffer because they will no longer be able to use to library once the accrue fines.



**Michelle Boule**



@wanderingeyre

The thing about kids fines too. My public lib charges .10 a day per item. You have 10 books out from the kids area and that is a dollar a day. It adds up fast, says the mom who is ALWAYS late returning books. #critlib

♡ 3 6:33 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule 📚's other Tweets](#)



**Michelle Boule**



@wanderingeyre · Oct 22, 2018



A2: I think fines are a form of "eat your peas" librarianship where we are trying to force people into doing what we think is best instead of serving them in the way they need most. #critlib



**Andrew Preater**

@preater

I say exactly the same thing except it's "eat your broccoli" rather than peas! :) (N.b. I love both peas and broccoli.) #critlib

♡ 1 6:33 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Andrew Preater's other Tweets](#)





**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...** · Oct 22, 2018 

Replies to @leslie\_kuo

#critlib I recommend you check out the Library Journal article that we posted in the resources at [critlib.org/going-free-free](http://critlib.org/going-free-free) At the end, it talks about whether your library can go fine free, and gives some suggestions if you're worried about revenue. :)



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

Thanks Samantha, I did read the article right before our chat. The other challenging thing here is that we have 13 districts in 1 network with 1 set of policies, fines and fees. We have to get 13 district governments to agree in order to drop or change any fees. #critlib

1 6:33 PM - Oct 22, 2018



 See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets



**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...** · Oct 22, 2018 

Replies to @lindsayedelaney

#critlib This is huge. By charging fines of children's materials, we're suddenly putting librarians in the role of socializing children, which should be the parents jobs. We are suddenly scolding the children and "teaching them responsibility" even though it's not their fault.



**el**

@Sperviter

In grad school we started a library in an LA juvenile hall and discussed having youth check books out and 'learn responsibility' returning them on time, etc. decided screw it, library's secondary, the books are theirs, reading matters most. #critlib

3 6:34 PM - Oct 22, 2018



 See el's other Tweets





**Violet Fox**  @violetbfox · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @leslie\_kuo

#critlib That's understandable. Are there any stats available about how much revenue is brought in by fines? In many libraries, it's a pretty negligible percentage.



**Lisa**

@OhDearJustNo

#critlib This is a question I'm looking at in my academic library right now. Specifically, the difference between different types of fines eg. overdue books vs. lost items

Heart 4 6:35 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Lisa's other Tweets](#)



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads



Wonerful. In the interest of time, here's the next question. Q3. What are some different strategies for trying to go fee-free? In which kinds of libraries would each strategy work best? #critlib

Heart 6:35 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#) >



**Andrew Preater** @preater · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @wanderingeyre

I say exactly the same thing except it's "eat your broccoli" rather than peas! :) (N.b. I love both peas and broccoli.)

#critlib



**Michelle Boule** 

@wanderingeyre

I love both too. #critlib



1 6:35 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule !\[\]\(eba903ee4dc5f81044c5c13ca9966076\_img.jpg\)'s other Tweets](#)



**Michelle Boule** 

@wanderingeyre



A3: Our setup, small 2yr college, is unique. We do not keep fines so they really are just a teaching tool that I think is broken. We need to admit they do not work and just get rid of them. #critlib

2 6:37 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule !\[\]\(1f90c95fe6d3ba43da0a9f07bb3fa77a\_img.jpg\)'s other Tweets](#)





**Lisa** @OhDearJustNo · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @violetbfox @leslie\_kuo

#critlib This is a question I'm looking at in my academic library right now. Specifically, the difference between different types of fines eg. overdue books vs. lost items



**Michelle Boule**

@wanderingeyre

I think we should keep lost item fees. That seems more like a reasonable fine to me personally. #critlib

2 6:38 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See Michelle Boule 's other Tweets



**Lindsay Delaney** **#PNBA2019**

@lindsayedelaney



A3: I've been really pleased with the local public libraries' decision last year to drop fees on children's materials. It's been a big relief to parents I speak with inside and outside of the library. #critlib

2 6:38 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See Lindsay Delaney **#PNBA2019**'s other Tweets



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo



A3 The "waive and request" method described in the article on the #critlib reading list was cool: waive the fee and then ask if ppl want to make a donation. (scroll down to 2nd article) [libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=d...](http://libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=d...)



#### Doing Fine(s)? | Fines & Fees

Fees and fines have traditionally been a fact of life for public libraries in America, even though a nonnegligible proportion of [libraryjournal.com](http://libraryjournal.com)

4 6:39 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets





**It's Nelly!**  
@nellyreads



#critlib A2 when I was in public, fees affected families with children the most. Once you hit \$15 you could no longer use your card and ppl with multiple children with multiple, small, easy readers accrued \$15 fast, sometimes without even realizing it.

3 6:39 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See  It's Nelly!'s other Tweets



**Michelle Boule**  @wanderingeyre · Oct 22, 2018



Replies to @OhDearJustNo and 2 others

I think we should keep lost item fees. That seems more like a reasonable fine to me personally. #critlib



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

We now suggest that people replace the book with a like-new copy with the same ISBN. If they do so we waive the admin/processing fee. We get the book back on the shelf sooner, so win-win. #critlib

3 6:40 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets



**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...** · Oct 22, 2018



Wonderful. In the interest of time, here's the next question.

Q3. What are some different strategies for trying to go fee-free? In which kinds of libraries would each strategy work best? #critlib



**Gina Murrell**

@GinaMurrell1

A3. Along with Pratt in Baltimore, Berkeley Public Library here in the Bay Area has gone fine-free as of July. So it seems public libraries are leading the way on this.

#critlib

4 6:41 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See Gina Murrell's other Tweets





**Lindsay Delaney** SOON #PNBA2019 @lin... · Oct 22, 2018

A3: I've been really pleased with the local public libraries' decision last year to drop fees on children's materials. It's been a big relief to parents I speak with inside and outside of the library. #critlib



**Lindsay Delaney** SOON #PNBA2019

@lindsaydelaney

A3: For items are never returned/very overdue, there's still a charge for replacement - that caused confusion for some families who thought they didn't ever need to renew. #critlib

1 6:41 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Lindsay Delaney SOON #PNBA2019's other Tweets](#) >



**el**

@Sperviter



#critlib A3: See how much \$ comes in, alternatives to that funding source (book sales), see if people will donate in lieu of fees, emphasize importance of access over profit from fees

3 6:41 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See el's other Tweets](#) >



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @wanderingeyre and 2 others

We now suggest that people replace the book with a like-new copy with the same ISBN. If they do so we waive the admin/processing fee. We get the book back on the shelf sooner, so win-win. #critlib



**Amanda D.**

@librarianbug

Huh. We also recommend purchasing a replacement copy, but in that case we waive the lost item charge and keep the processing fee. #critlib

2 6:42 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Amanda D.'s other Tweets](#) >



**Michelle Boule**   
@wanderingeyre



I love the idea of asking for donations instead of fees.  
[#critlib](#) [twitter.com/Sperviter/stat...](https://twitter.com/Sperviter/stat...)

**el** @Sperviter

#critlib A3: See how much \$ comes in, alternatives to that funding source (book sales), see if people will donate in lieu of fees, emphasize importance of access over profit from fees

♥ 4 6:43 PM - Oct 22, 2018



 See Michelle Boule 's other Tweets



**Amanda D.** @librarianbug · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @leslie\_kuo and 3 others

Huh. We also recommend purchasing a replacement copy, but in that case we waive the lost item charge and keep the processing fee. #critlib



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

Yes, of course we also waive the lost item fee. Our processing fee is pretty high to cover the admin costs of ordering a new book, not just physical processing.

#critlib

♥ 1 6:44 PM - Oct 22, 2018



 See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @librarianbug and 3 others

Yes, of course we also waive the lost item fee. Our processing fee is pretty high to cover the admin costs of ordering a new book, not just physical processing. #critlib



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

At my old US library we actually wouldn't mention the option of buying a replacement unless people asked, bc of potential for conflict when ppl bought the wrong edition, beat-up copies, etc. It was deemed more trouble for everyone involved than it was worth. #critlib

♥ 2 6:45 PM - Oct 22, 2018



 See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets





The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam

@CleverGirlReads



Final question! Q4. What apprehensions do you have about going fee-free? What challenges would you need to overcome if you wanted to implement fewer (or no) fees? #critlib



6:46 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets >



Leslie Kuo

@leslie\_kuo



A3: I've been collecting articles about going fine-free or offering fine amnesty. Here's one from NYPL #critlib  
[qz.com/1158839/the-ca...](http://qz.com/1158839/the-ca...)



**The case against library fines—according to the hea...**

For many families across the US, library fines are a true barrier to access.

[qz.com](http://qz.com)



11 6:46 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets >



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



A3: I've been collecting articles about going fine-free or offering fine amnesty. Here's one from NYPL #critlib [qz.com/1158839/the-ca...](https://qz.com/1158839/the-ca...)



### **The case against library fines—according to th...**

For many families across the US, library fines are a true barrier to access.

[qz.com](https://qz.com)



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

A3: And here's one about LA dropping fines for young people #critlib [latimes.com/local/lanow/la...](https://latimes.com/local/lanow/la...)



### **No more library fines for most young readers in L.A...**

Leilany Medina, 11, loves books so much that she'd like to become a librarian.

[latimes.com](https://latimes.com)

5 6:47 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#)





**Michelle Boule**   
@wanderingeyre



A4: I personally have no apprehensions, but there would be institutional push back on going fee free. #critlib

1 6:48 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule's other Tweets](#)



**Leslie Kuo**  
@leslie\_kuo



A3 What do you all think about fees for open reserve books in academic libraries? In college I racked up over \$100 in fees on 24-hour reserve books within a day bc I didn't realize the fines were by the hour! #critlib

4 6:49 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#)



**Michelle Boule**  @wanderingeyre · Oct 22, 2018



A4: I personally have no apprehensions, but there would be institutional push back on going fee free. #critlib



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**  
@CleverGirlReads



Your school definitely sounds like it could use with going fine free. I would talk with others, find out what the fine money is being used for in the business office, and make a case for removing them. #critlib

2 6:50 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#)



**Leslie Kuo**  
@leslie\_kuo



A4 I think in Berlin, with 13 library districts deciding on fees/fines together, the biggest challenge would be getting everyone on the same page & also securing enough financial support from the government to make up for lost revenue. #critlib

3 6:52 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#)





**Gina Murrell**  
@GinaMurrell1



A4. I have zero qualms with the elimination of library fines/fees. At the public library, I often waived the fees of small children. #critlib

♡ 16 6:52 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Gina Murrell's other Tweets](#)



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



A3 What do you all think about fees for open reserve books in academic libraries? In college I racked up over \$100 in fees on 24-hour reserve books within a day bc I didn't realize the fines were by the hour! #critlib



**Amanda D.**  
@librarianbug

We do this -- \$1.20/hour (or portion of an hour) for reserve items, vs \$0.25/day for regular items. Each reserve book has a sticker on the front laying out the fine structure. #critlib

♡ 2 6:54 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Amanda D.'s other Tweets](#)



**It's Nelly!**  
@nellyreads



A4 apprehensions would be how much a community understand the common good of returning things in a timely matter. How much time the library staff would take for focusing on user education. With a "fear of fines" taken away, will ppl take advantage of the leniency? #critlib

♡ 1 6:55 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See It's Nelly!'s other Tweets](#)



**el**  
@Sperviter



#critlib A4 None. I mean, libraries are vulnerable and funding sure does matter. But unless there's an economy that's fair for all, fines and fees are a problem.

♡ 6 6:55 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See el's other Tweets](#)





**Amanda D.** @librarianbug · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @leslie\_kuo

We do this -- \$1.20/hour (or portion of an hour) for reserve items, vs \$0.25/day for regular items. Each reserve book has a sticker on the front laying out the fine structure.

#critlib



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

Good idea with the sticker! We didn't have that and the fines must have been more like \$5/hr bc I only had 4 books. I never borrowed reserve books again after that!  
#critlib

♡ 2 6:55 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#)



**It's Nelly!**

@nellyreads



A3 maybe a “for credit” challenge could take place. (i.e coming to an library event, checking out an e-book, donating non perishables, volunteering) could earn you credit which in the future could go towards fines or printing. Idk if this is legal but sounds cool lol #critlib

♡ 5 6:56 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See It's Nelly!'s other Tweets](#)



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



A3 What do you all think about fees for open reserve books in academic libraries? In college I racked up over \$100 in fees on 24-hour reserve books within a day bc I didn't realize the fines were by the hour! #critlib



**Michelle Boule** 📚

@wanderingeyre

Many universities are moving to open reserves and this would eliminate the need for fines there. That is terrible. Our reserves currently do accrue fines and they are being checked out BUT we are thinking of opening the collection. #critlib

♡ 3 6:56 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule 📚's other Tweets](#)





**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



A4 I think in Berlin, with 13 library districts deciding on fees/fines together, the biggest challenge would be getting everyone on the same page & also securing enough financial support from the government to make up for lost revenue. #critlib



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads

What strategies do you think we should use when talking to our government officials about funding in order to get rid of fines? #critlib

3 6:56 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#) >



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



A3 What do you all think about fees for open reserve books in academic libraries? In college I racked up over \$100 in fees on 24-hour reserve books within a day bc I didn't realize the fines were by the hour! #critlib



**Lisa**

@OhDearJustNo

The max. fines for reserve items can be really high. A lot of students are doing the whole research thing for the first time, and they're new to reserves and can easily make mistakes #critlib

3 6:56 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Lisa's other Tweets](#) >



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



Replies to @librarianbug

Good idea with the sticker! We didn't have that and the fines must have been more like \$5/hr bc I only had 4 books. I never borrowed reserve books again after that! #critlib



**Amanda D.**

@librarianbug

See, and that's a shame! Those are probably the books you needed the most while you were in school. #critlib

4 6:57 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Amanda D.'s other Tweets](#) >



**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...** · Oct 22, 2018

Replies to @leslie\_kuo

Wow, as a first-gen lower-class college student, something like that would have absolutely killed me. I used the library all the time when I was an on campus student. If that happened, I would have lost my ability to use the library, and my school work would have suffered.



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

Yeah, no kidding! I was in total shock and went to withdraw all the money in my bank account to pay for it. Fortunately, a more senior person was on the desk when I came back and they waived most of the fee. [#critlib](#)

4 6:58 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



A3 What do you all think about fees for open reserve books in academic libraries? In college I racked up over \$100 in fees on 24-hour reserve books within a day bc I didn't realize the fines were by the hour! [#critlib](#)



**Amanda D.**

@librarianbug

Tangentially related -- we block borrowing privileges on accounts with at least \$25 worth of fines on them, but we don't honor the block if it's a student who needs to check out an item on reserve. We trade driver's license or other ID for collateral. [#critlib](#)

4 6:58 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See Amanda D.'s other Tweets



**Amanda D.** @librarianbug · Oct 22, 2018



Replies to @leslie\_kuo

See, and that's a shame! Those are probably the books you needed the most while you were in school. [#critlib](#)



**Michelle Boule**

@wanderingeyre

If students can't afford a textbook, how can we expect them to afford fines? [#critlib](#)

7 6:58 PM - Oct 22, 2018



See Michelle Boule 's other Tweets





**It's Nelly!** @nellyreads · Oct 22, 2018



A3 maybe a “for credit” challenge could take place. (i.e coming to an library event, checking out an e-book, donating non perishables, volunteering) could earn you credit which in the future could go towards fines or printing. Idk if this is legal but sounds cool lol #critlib



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads

I think I've read about it being done in a few libraries. I personally love the idea. Having multiple options is also great for meeting the individual needs of each patron. #critlib

♡ 2 6:59 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#) >



**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...** · Oct 22, 2018



Replies to @leslie\_kuo

What strategies do you think we should use when talking to our government officials about funding in order to get rid of fines? #critlib



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

I see fines/fees as an inclusion issue. Barriers to entry in libraries should be as low as possible. Fortunately we have already been able to waive all fees in the case of newly-arrived refugees; I hope we can expand that someday. But again I can only speak for myself. #critlib

♡ 5 7:00 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#) >



**Amy Martin** @hellomissamy · Oct 22, 2018



Replies to @GinaMurrell1

And the children who are consistent with returning books on time are those who are lucky enough to have an adult monitoring their activity. Those who already don't have as much time and attention as they need from caregivers lose again.



**Gina Murrell**

@GinaMurrell1

Yep, I saw that on a daily basis at the public library where I worked. #critlib

♡ 3 7:02 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Gina Murrell's other Tweets](#) >



**Michelle Boule**  @wanderingeyre · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @librarianbug @leslie\_kuo

If students can't afford a textbook, how can we expect them to afford fines? #critlib



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

This reminds me: having fines can be a huge source of shame. I felt so stupid when I was told I had \$100+ fines for my reserve books. I also snuck into the library before my first library job interview to pay my fines bc I was convinced they'd never hire me otherwise! #critlib

♡ 4 7:02 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#)



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**



@CleverGirlReads

#critlib What a wonderful discussion we're having! Time is up for the discussion, but feel free to keep it going if you like. [@violetbfox](#) will have a compilation of the tweets from the discussion posted at [critlib.org/going-fee-free](http://critlib.org/going-fee-free) when she gets a chance. Thanks everyone!

♡ 5 7:02 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#)



**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...**



· Oct 22, 2018

#critlib What a wonderful discussion we're having! Time is up for the discussion, but feel free to keep it going if you like. [@violetbfox](#) will have a compilation of the tweets from the discussion posted at [critlib.org/going-fee-free](http://critlib.org/going-fee-free) when she gets a chance. Thanks everyone!



**el**

@Sperviter

#critlib Thank you, Samantha! Great discussion.

♡ 3 7:05 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See el's other Tweets](#)





**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @wanderingeyre @librarianbug

This reminds me: having fines can be a huge source of shame. I felt so stupid when I was told I had \$100+ fines for my reserve books. I also snuck into the library before my first library job interview to pay my fines bc I was convinced they'd never hire me otherwise! #critlib



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads

#critlib I did the same thing! I had fines from when I was a kid, and I called a friend who worked at the library to see if they were still in the system before my interview. Then I went to a different branch to pay them so no one would recognize me.

♡ 4 7:05 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets](#) >



**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...** · Oct 22, 2018



#critlib What a wonderful discussion we're having! Time is up for the discussion, but feel free to keep it going if you like. @violetbfox will have a compilation of the tweets from the discussion posted at [critlib.org/going-fee-free](http://critlib.org/going-fee-free) when she gets a chance. Thanks everyone!



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

#critlib Thank you very much, Samantha, for organizing today's readings and chat. Thank you all for your insight and the great discussion.

♡ 2 7:05 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets](#) >



**Leslie Kuo** @leslie\_kuo · Oct 22, 2018



Replying to @wanderingeyre @librarianbug

This reminds me: having fines can be a huge source of shame. I felt so stupid when I was told I had \$100+ fines for my reserve books. I also snuck into the library before my first library job interview to pay my fines bc I was convinced they'd never hire me otherwise! #critlib



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads

#critlib It's horrible for access when fines make libraries feel like places of shame.

3 7:06 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets >](#)



**Michelle Boule**

@wanderingeyre



Thanks #critlib team for a great chat

2 7:07 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Michelle Boule 's other Tweets >](#)



**It's Nelly!** @nellyreads · Oct 22, 2018



A4 apprehensions would be how much a community understand the common good of returning things in a timely matter. How much time the library staff would take for focusing on user education. With a “fear of fines” taken away, will ppl take advantage of the leniency? #critlib



**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads

#critlib In some cases, dropping fines actually increased circulation rates, and because people no longer fear returning to the library, more books come back, even though some may be late.

4 7:09 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam's other Tweets >](#)



**Jamie Howe**  
@Gaymerbrarian



gosh darnit I was going to follow [#critlib](#) and then I had a reference question for most of the hour.

♡ 7:10 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See Jamie Howe's other Tweets



**The Librarian Formerly Known as S...** · Oct 22, 2018

Replies to @nellyreads

#critlib In some cases, dropping fines actually increased circulation rates, and because people no longer fear returning to the library, more books come back, even though some may be late.



**Leslie Kuo**

@leslie\_kuo

Oh yeah! The article said that some libraries have seen 100,000s of books being returned that people were afraid to return bc of overdue fines. [#critlib](#)

♡ 1 7:11 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See Leslie Kuo's other Tweets



**It's Nelly!**

@nellyreads



Very similar to teenagers who are afraid to come home after breaking curfew, very good point. Lol [#critlib](#) [twitter.com/CleverGirlRead...](http://twitter.com/CleverGirlRead...)

**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam** @CleverGirlReads  
Replies to @nellyreads

#critlib In some cases, dropping fines actually increased circulation rates, and because people no longer fear returning to the library, more books come back, even though some may be late.

♡ 2 7:37 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See It's Nelly!'s other Tweets





**Allana**  
@allanaaaaaaaaa



the few studies on this show little to no correlation, but that fines often deter borrowing. what I'd like to see are the \$\$/hours spent on fine collection, petitions to waive, amnesty campaigns, policy-writing and review, etc. vs. fine revenue. [#critlib](#) [twitter.com/CleverGirlRead...](#)

**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam** @CleverGirlReads

#critlib, Some libraries use fines for funding, but in reality late fines make up a small amount of library funding. Most libraries rationalize their implementation by saying they deter the later return of materials. But is that really true? [twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s...](#)

10 7:38 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Allana's other Tweets](#)



**Allana** @allanaaaaaaaaa · Oct 22, 2018



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**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam** @CleverGir...

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**Allana**  
@allanaaaaaaaaa

what I'd REALLY like is a comprehensive list of reasons to handle money in libraries at all. [#critlib](#)

- 1) printing costs
- 2) card replacement fees (abolish plz)
- 2) item replacement fees (I'm on the fence)
- 3) out-of-town accounts
- 4) donations? merch? cute tote bags?
- 5) ...?

1 7:41 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Allana's other Tweets](#)





Allana @allanaaaaaaa · Oct 22, 2018



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**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam** @CleverGir...

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**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam**

@CleverGirlReads

We posted a article in our resources section at [critlib.org/going-fee-free](https://critlib.org/going-fee-free) that might answer some of those questions about costs. #critlib

3 7:48 PM - Oct 22, 2018



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**Sean Wynkoop**

@ZiggyWynkoop



@CleverGirlReads This popped up when I searched for the #critlib discussion just now. I'm sure you've read it (it's from December), but thought I'd pass it along just in case. [qz.com/1158839/the-ca...](https://qz.com/1158839/the-ca...)



**The case against library fines—according to the hea...**

For many families across the US, library fines are a true barrier to access.

[qz.com](https://qz.com)

1 7:50 PM - Oct 22, 2018



[See Sean Wynkoop's other Tweets](#) >

**Brittany Paloma Fiedler**

@bpfiedler



Missed #critlib chat but here's a story: I took over a middle school lib from a person who LOVED fines. Students w ANY fine lost ALL borrowing privileges. Students literally cried when they found out \*I\* would still check books out to them. I didn't go fine free - I wish I had! [twitter.com/CleverGirlRead...](https://twitter.com/CleverGirlRead...)

**The Librarian Formerly Known as Sam @CleverGirlReads**

Our #critlib chat on going fine-fee free starts in 10 minutes! You can find resources as well as the discussion questions at critlib.org/going-fee-free. As a reminder, if you'd like to chat anonymously, you can do so by using the form at critlib.org/anon. See you soon!

♡ 7 8:23 PM - Oct 22, 2018



👤 See Brittany Paloma Fiedler's other Tweets

**Claire Back**

@calire



Missed the #critlib chat on fines yesterday. Worth taking a look.

♡ 3 7:19 AM - Oct 23, 2018



👤 See Claire Back's other Tweets





**Andrew Preater**

@preater



#critlib update for UK friends: yes, it's quite possible to mash up fines with numbers such as your SCONUL stats. The last journalist (I assume) to do a bulk FOI on this kindly used [@WhatDoTheyKnow](#) so it's all there for 2016-17: [whatdotheyknow.com/user/jack\\_forks](http://whatdotheyknow.com/user/jack_forks) [twitter.com/preater/status...](https://twitter.com/preater/status...)



**Jack Forks - Freedom of Information ...**

[whatdotheyknow.com](http://whatdotheyknow.com)

**Andrew Preater** @preater

Replying to @violetbfox @leslie\_kuo

#critlib There are regular FOIs of fines done by journalists here in the UK, so it would be possible to work out their significance alongside other sector statistics.



2:54 PM - Oct 23, 2018



See Andrew Preater's other Tweets



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