

#critlib chat: Melvil Dewey

132 Items

Archive of the October 1, 2019 #critlib chat about Melvil Dewey

**Kevin Seeber**

@kevinseeber



Alright y'all! Hello and welcome to tonight's #critlib chat (which is chat number 119!). We're discussing Melvil Dewey. The questions and a link to the recommended reading for tonight are available here: critlib.org/melvil-dewey/

♡ 6 1:00 AM - Oct 2, 2019

[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)

In the interest of brevity, introductions have been removed

**Kevin Seeber**

@kevinseeber



Q1. When did you first learn about Melvil Dewey's racism/anti-semitism/misogyny? How did you learn about it? #critlib

♡ 4 1:08 AM - Oct 2, 2019

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

@GinaMurrell1



A1. Definitely not in library school. I learned of Dewey's racism/anti-semitism/misogyny #onhere, through #librarytwitter. #critlib

♡ 19 1:11 AM - Oct 2, 2019

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



Tina Gross
@aboutness



A1. In library school, in basic "Organizing Information" proto-cataloging class. The professor (Arlene Taylor) told us that Dewey was a "reprobate" because of sexism, racism, anti-Semitism, etc. [#critlib](#)

♡ 12 1:11 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Tina Gross's other Tweets](#)



Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox



A1. I keep seeing this "oh EVERYONE knows this" sentiment going around and I can speak from experience that that is definitely not true. Many people who have worked in libraries for decades have *not* heard about MD's foibles, nor thought much about classification bias. [#critlib](#)

♡ 34 1:13 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets](#)



Jamie Howe
@Gaymerbrarian



A1: I genuinely couldn't tell you. It def was fairly early on in library school, but not sure in class (tho likely). I can say I didn't touch all of it at once: it was his misogyny, then later racism, then later than that, the antisemitism. [#critlib](#) twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q1. When did you first learn about Melvil Dewey's racism/anti-semitism/misogyny? How did you learn about it?
[#critlib](#)

♡ 4 1:15 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jamie Howe's other Tweets](#)





Dr.EB
@LNBel



A1 I was in last class graduating from the library school that M Dewey started. They were open about the seal harassment but not critical. They were like we can't be closed MD started this school. [#critlib](#)

♡ 4 1:15 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Dr.EB's other Tweets](#)



Jaena Rae 🧑
@jaenarae



A1: There was some discussion of Dewey's... predilections in library school, but not much. I read up on it outside of class. [#critlib](#)

♡ 7 1:15 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jaena Rae 🧑's other Tweets](#)



Ms. T. Mo. ❤️
@LibFeminista



A1. I hadn't given him that much thought but one day, in passing in a [@LISafterclass](#) she had mentioned it and recommended a biography. Read it and while it was interesting it didn't surprise me. I apparently have a low bar for humanity—haha [#critlib](#)

♡ 6 1:16 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Ms. T. Mo. ❤️'s other Tweets](#)



Violet Fox 🦊 @violetbfox · 15h



A1. I keep seeing this "oh EVERYONE knows this" sentiment going around and I can speak from experience that that is definitely not true. Many people who have worked in libraries for decades have *not* heard about MD's foibles, nor thought much about classification bias. [#critlib](#)



Jamie Howe
@Gaymerbrarian

A librarian @ mfpow, who retired this year, was shocked literally this past January when it came up [#critlib](#)

♡ 2 1:16 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jamie Howe's other Tweets](#)





Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber



A1. For my part, I was fortunate to have Wayne Wiegand as a professor in library school (c. 2007). I don't know that I gave MD much thought before Wiegand's class, but WW didn't pull punches re: Dewey and lots of other aspects of U.S. library history. [#critlib](#) [#thankswayne](#)

♡ 20 1:16 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Jessica Schomberg
@schomj



A2. Twitter? At least that's when it stood out as more than just how things were [#critlib](#)
twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q1. When did you first learn about Melvil Dewey's racism/anti-semitism/misogyny? How did you learn about it?
[#critlib](#)

♡ 11 1:16 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jessica Schomberg's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber · 15h



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Jamie Howe
@Gaymerbrarian

Hm, he came to speak about his recent book in my second year. I wonder if that was my introduction [#critlib](#)

♡ 2 1:17 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jamie Howe's other Tweets](#)





Deborah
@loislibrarian



Im a embedded librarian and didn't learn about Melville in library school. Learned about him at an ALA panel it was [#critlib](#) panel a few years ago.

♡ 11 1:18 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Deborah's other Tweets](#)



Jessica Critten
@JessicaCritten



A1: Same here (Hey FSU!); I didn't learn about MD separate from his bullshit [#critlib](#)
twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

A1. For my part, I was fortunate to have Wayne Wiegand as a professor in library school (c. 2007). I don't know that I gave MD much thought before Wiegand's class, but WW didn't pull punches re: Dewey and lots of other aspects of U.S. library history. [#critlib](#) [#thankswayne](#)

♡ 4 1:18 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jessica Critten's other Tweets](#)





ElviRussel, Mistress of the Dark 🧛‍♀️🌙👾
@russ_librarian



A1: First learned about Dewey's misogyny and anti-semitism through a podcast (which is now defunct maybe? Idk:

stuffmomnevertoldyou.com/podcasts/libra...

Never learned about his misconduct in library school. Instead, we read one of his essays for a reference class.
[#critlib](#)



Librarians, Part 1

Being a librarian was originally a man's job. Then Melvil Dewey and his book-loving bros came along and changed
stuffmomnevertoldyou.com

♡ 4 1:18 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See ElviRussel, Mistress of the Dark](#) 🧛‍♀️🌙👾's other Tweets >



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber



Q2. In addition to the DDC, Melvil Dewey made a huge impact. In your daily work in libraries, or when you study libraries, where do you see evidence of his influence?

[#critlib](#)

♡ 2 1:19 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#) >



V
@v_musingined



A1 My middle & high school librarian (BIWOC) told me about his hateful mess when I was in middle school.
[#critlib](#)

♡ 6 1:19 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See V's other Tweets](#)



Dr.EB @LNBel · 15h



A1 I was in last class graduating from the library school that M Dewey started. They were open about the seal harassment but not critical. They were like we can't be closed MD started this school. [#critlib](#)



Dr.EB
@LNBel

^ sexual harassment ^ was the foundation upon which [@Columbia](#) library school was founded. I think about that a lot given the way the university still handles it so badly. I got other degrees there [#critlib](#)

♡ 8 1:21 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Dr.EB's other Tweets](#)



Tina Gross
@aboutness



A2. This may not be Dewey's influence exactly, but it's related to the Dewey phenomenon--the capacity for denial. Ability and willingness to pretend that everything is fine when it's clearly not. [#critlib](#)

♡ 11 1:21 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Tina Gross's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber



A2.1 It's pretty wild to dig into Dewey's work. He founded a company called The Library Bureau that sold furniture/card catalogs/basically defined the "library" aesthetic. Guy changed the spelling from "catalogue" to "catalog" in the U.S. [#critlib](#)

♡ 11 1:21 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)





Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber · 15h



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Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

A2.2 But of course, the toxicity of his views on gender and race that guided DDC were mimicked in other classification schemas. The fact that he insisted on national standards over local guidelines resonates re: "illegal aliens" LCSH. #critlib

♡ 10 1:21 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber · 15h



Replying to @kevinseeber

A2.2 But of course, the toxicity of his views on gender and race that guided DDC were mimicked in other classification schemas. The fact that he insisted on national standards over local guidelines resonates re: "illegal aliens" LCSH. #critlib



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

A2.3 Honestly, it wasn't until preparing for this chat that I thought about parallels Dewey vs. Poole/National vs. Local/ InfoLit Standards vs. InfoLit Framework. Not equal by any means, but worth exploring. #critlib (cc: @donnarosemary)

♡ 6 1:21 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)





Jessica Schomberg
@schomj



A2. Low salaries, low value for work gendered as feminine, extension of efficiency and colonialism/supremacy as part of library work, "universal" organizing systems as a global goal #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q2. In addition to the DDC, Melvil Dewey made a huge impact. In your daily work in libraries, or when you study libraries, where do you see evidence of his influence? #critlib

♡ 46 1:22 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jessica Schomberg's other Tweets](#)



Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox



A2. The obsession with efficiency. This obviously isn't just Melvil's heritage, it comes of the whole Taylorism and scientific management movement of that era. But he certainly embodied and embraced it, founding the first library school, "School of Library Economy". #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q2. In addition to the DDC, Melvil Dewey made a huge impact. In your daily work in libraries, or when you study libraries, where do you see evidence of his influence? #critlib

♡ 28 1:23 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets](#)



Melissa Wong
@LISafterclass



A1. Wayne Wiegand's Irrepressible Reformer. Read it when it first came out, totally opened my eye to what a creeper Dewey was (and his obsession with order and standardization). #critlib

♡ 5 1:23 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Melissa Wong's other Tweets](#)





Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber · 15h



Q1. When did you first learn about Melvil Dewey's racism/anti-semitism/misogyny? How did you learn about it? #critlib



Erin 🌸🍵🧑🏻🧊🍦🐙🧶🦋🍰📧🧠📚
@cybrarerin

Q1, Not entirely sure— coulda been college or at work or Twitter, but since I'm not a cataloger I didn't think I had a say in it. #critlib

♡ 3 1:23 AM - Oct 2, 2019



👤 See Erin 🌸🍵🧑🏻🧊🍦🐙🧶🦋🍰📧🧠📚's other Tweets >



Jaena Rae 🧑🏻
@jaenarae



A2: I was actually thinking about this on my way to work this evening. Undervaluing "feminine" work. Over-emphasis on Christianity. #critlib

♡ 12 1:25 AM - Oct 2, 2019



👤 See Jaena Rae 🧑🏻's other Tweets >



Violet Fox 🦊 @violetbfox · 15h



A2. The obsession with efficiency. This obviously isn't just Melvil's heritage, it comes of the whole Taylorism and scientific management movement of that era. But he certainly embodied and embraced it, founding the first library school, "School of Library Economy". #critlib
twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q2. In addition to the DDC, Melvil Dewey made a huge impact. In your daily work in libraries, or when you study libraries, where do you see evidence of his influence? #critlib



Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox

There's a direct line from his focus on teaching efficiency as the most important value to LIS students (who went on to become educators themselves) to cataloging practice in general, and today's neoliberal focus on efficiency and cost-management over all other values. #critlib

♡ 26 1:25 AM - Oct 2, 2019



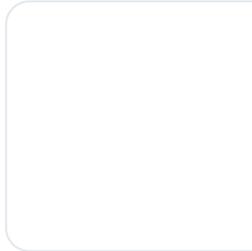
👤 See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets >



Gina Murrell
@GinaMurrell1



A2. Traditionally, Dewey's influence could be seen in the othering of non-Eurocentric subject matter in cataloging. sylvar.wordpress.com/2006/02/03/com... #critlib



Come see the oppression inherent i...

This won't surprise my librarian friends, but the Dewey Decimal System is amazingly Eurocentric. Newspapers are in the 070s, sylvar.wordpress.com

♡ 15 1:25 AM - Oct 2, 2019



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



Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber · 15h



Q2. In addition to the DDC, Melvil Dewey made a huge impact. In your daily work in libraries, or when you study libraries, where do you see evidence of his influence? #critlib



Dr. EB
@LNBel

A2 Dewey had a big influence on the structures of power in libraries- white males at the top and women and POC doing the real work at low wages. #critlib

♡ 19 1:25 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Dr.EB's other Tweets](#)



Tina Gross @aboutness · 15h



A2. This may not be Dewey's influence exactly, but it's related to the Dewey phenomenon--the capacity for denial. Ability and willingness to pretend that everything is fine when it's clearly not. #critlib



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

GOODNESS YES. Baked into librarianship at its core in the U.S. The reckoning is maybe now coming? #critlib

♡ 5 1:26 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)





Jamia Williams, MLS

@LibrarianJamia



Replying to @LibrarianJamia

A2 It shows up within libraries many times when things are not reckoned with or even acknowledged. Not telling the entire story of how we got here. [#critlib](#)

♡ 11 1:27 AM - Oct 2, 2019 · Chili Center, NY



[See Jamia Williams, MLS's other Tweets](#)



Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1 · 15h



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Come see the oppression inher...

This won't surprise my librarian friends, but the Dewey Decimal System is amazingly Eurocentric. sylvar.wordpress.com



Kevin Seeber

@kevinseeber

Absolutely. Very similar issues in LC. [#critlib](#)

♡ 3 1:27 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber

@kevinseeber



Q3. How can we address Dewey's ongoing influence in libraries and repair some of the harm he caused? [#critlib](#)

♡ 4 1:27 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)





Dr.EB @LNBel · 15h



Replying to @kevinseeber

A2 Dewey had a big influence on the structures of power in libraries- white males at the top and women and POC doing the real work at low wages. #critlib



Dr.EB
@LNBel

A2 also of hierarchical control in libraries. When I worked at NYPL branches there was a dress code. Codes of conduct for our young pages #critlib

♡ 6 1:28 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Dr.EB's other Tweets](#)



Jamia Williams, MLS @LibrarianJamia · 15h



Replying to @LibrarianJamia

A2 It shows up within libraries many times when things are not reckoned with or even acknowledged. Not telling the entire story of how we got here. #critlib



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

For sure! And we keep repeating this pattern. For a profession wrapped up in preserving info, we do a lousy job of looking at ourselves and how we got here. #critlib

♡ 10 1:28 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Ms. T. Mo. 
@LibFeminista



A2: it's baked into the entire institution of libraries. I think we kid ourselves when we think it isn't foundational #critlib

♡ 5 1:29 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Ms. T. Mo. !\[\]\(8a136c80da518f72f990c231b144441e_img.jpg\)'s other Tweets](#)





Nancy Sims
@CopyrightLibn



A1. First year of library school, 1999 - I think first semester. Can't remember name of instructor for intro to info science, but she covered it. Think Jana Varlejs also covered in some other basic-ish class. [#critlib](#)

♡ 1 1:30 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Nancy Sims's other Tweets](#)



Patty Dwyer @beadjunky18 · 15h



Replying to @kevinseeber

I think there was an article in Library Journal in the 80s.



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

Thanks for sharing! I'm curious--did you find it on your own? Or was it referred to you? [#critlib](#)

♡ 1:30 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Dr.EB @LNBel · 15h



Replying to @LNBel @kevinseeber

A2 also of hierarchical control in libraries. When I worked at NYPL branches there was a dress code. Codes of conduct for our young pages [#critlib](#)



Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox

As told in the Wiegand biography, Melvil wanted the female workers he hired to wear uniforms so they would be easily recognized as library workers. (It thankfully didn't catch on.) [#critlib](#)

♡ 6 1:31 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets](#)





Nancy Sims @CopyrightLibn · 15h



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Kevin Seeber

@kevinseeber

Thanks for sharing! Seems like about half of the participants learned about it in grad school, half afterwards. (Some, very recently.) [#critlib](#)

♡ 1 1:32 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Violet Fox 🐾 @violetbfox · 15h



Replying to @LNBel

As told in the Wiegand biography, Melvil wanted the female workers he hired to wear uniforms so they would be easily recognized as library workers. (It thankfully didn't catch on.) [#critlib](#)



Jessica Critten

@JessicaCritten

and yet! the librarian bun-and-cardigan stereotype thrives! (She says, with her hair still in today's work bun) [#critlib](#)

♡ 6 1:32 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jessica Critten's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber

@kevinseeber



A3.1 Been thinking a lot about this, but my best answer is: First, Let's Talk About It. (Hence, this chat.) Lots of library workers are still unaware of Dewey's toxicity. ALA still uses his name and likeness on promos. Vendors still put him on swag. This has to stop. [#critlib](#)

♡ 17 1:33 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)





Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber · 15h



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Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

A3.2 From there, I'm happy to see things like @ChangeTheSubject and other efforts to correct longstanding discrimination that exists in library classifications. We'll need to do a lot more, but The Work is happening. #critlib

♡ 13 1:33 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox



A3. We're still not even past the first step, acknowledging the problem. I recognize that I live in a glass house here, but quit naming your library animals after him. Quit naming your podcasts after him. Quit with the punny Twitter handles. #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q3. How can we address Dewey's ongoing influence in libraries and repair some of the harm he caused? #critlib

♡ 89 1:34 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[15 people are talking about this](#)



Jessica Critten @JessicaCritten · 15h



Replying to @violetbfox @LNBel
and yet! the librarian bun-and-cardigan stereotype thrives! (She says, with her hair still in today's work bun) #critlib



Dr.EB
@LNBel

Omg I'm so waiting for cardigan weather! #critlib

♡ 3 1:35 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Dr.EB's other Tweets](#)





Gina Murrell
@GinaMurrell1



A3. In terms of cataloging, radical catalogers are actively working to undo the damage, shifting the focus & updating/adding new terminology. [#critlib](#)

♡ 12 1:35 AM - Oct 2, 2019



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



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber



Replying to @chiuchiutrain

YES. Huge reason why I wanted to do this chat. "I always knew he sucked" is not an answer, not a reflection, not an interrogation of structures. It's a pass for a profession that doesn't deserve it. [#critlib](#)

♡ 10 1:35 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Melissa DeWitt
@Badgersssss



A3 I was thinking about that podcast named after him. [#critlib](#)

♡ 3 1:36 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Melissa DeWitt's other Tweets](#)



Ms. T. Mo. ❤️ @LibFeminista · 15h



Replying to @violetbfox

And also—there are some subjects that will NEVER be efficient based on the system of dominance. BIPOC, Queer, disabled and non dominant groups are always going to be seen as inefficient to exist in their truest forms@



Ms. T. Mo. ❤️
@LibFeminista

[#critlib](#) tag for this reply.

♡ 1:36 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Ms. T. Mo. ❤️'s other Tweets](#)





Jamie Howe
@Gaymerbrarian



I have [#critpizza](#) so back to [#critlib](#)

♡ 1 1:36 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jamie Howe's other Tweets](#)



Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox



A3. I was really disappointed that so many library people I respect lined up to bash that Slate article. And were so quick to absolve themselves of any complicity with the line of "oh *I* knew he was a creep all along". That is seriously messed up. [#critlib](#)

♡ 26 1:37 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber



Q4. Dewey was censured during his life, though librarianship continued to revere him (his name was attached to the ALA Lifetime Achievement award until 2019). Why is librarianship only just now coming to terms with this legacy? [#critlib](#)

♡ 8 1:37 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Dr.EB
@LNBel



For anyone who wants to research MD there's material in the [@nyplarchives](#) [#critlib](#)

♡ 3 1:37 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Dr.EB's other Tweets](#)





Cathy
@bibliocathy



Lurking on [#critlib](#) tonight and learning a lot! Very much appreciate it.

♡ 2 1:39 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Cathy's other Tweets](#)



Kate Crowe 🌿🍂🍁
@kcrowe



Hi [#critlib](#) I am exceptionally late bc I was trying to be a good [@archivists_org](#) student chapter advisor HHHH y name is Kate and I was your last critlib mod!

♡ 8 1:39 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kate Crowe 🌿🍂🍁's other Tweets](#)



Jamie Howe
@Gaymerbrarian



A3: in one of my first [#critlib](#) (almost 5 years ago???) I lamented that we keep having to talk about the myth of neutrality, when are we going to do any of the work! But it's still always someone's first time... I don't think we can do anything significant until more know

♡ 4 1:39 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jamie Howe's other Tweets](#)



Josh
@Auth0rityCTRL



I thought about this a lot in library school. There are several steps we need to take organizationally, ontologically, and epistemologically. I'm probably going to have to thread this one in order to make it readable because this is going to be too many words. [#critlib](#) [twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...](https://twitter.com/kevinseeber/status/1171111111)

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q3. How can we address Dewey's ongoing influence in libraries and repair some of the harm he caused? [#critlib](#)

♡ 2 1:39 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Josh's other Tweets](#)





Violet Fox 🐱
@violetbfox



MT @chiuchiutrain I'd like to see librarianship acknowledge the reckoning process, incl. publicly interrogating nature of Dewey's hero/saint story, rather than erasing it. No "we knew all along, so we're good ppl;" no "he was a troubled genius whose art is still good." #critlib

♡ 12 1:39 AM - Oct 2, 2019



👤 See Violet Fox 🐱's other Tweets



Zoe Fisher (she/hers)
@zoh_zoh



He had good intentions... he was bad... we have good intentions... could we also be... bad????? Less sarcastically: we are afraid of critical self-reflection & what it might mean. #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q4. Dewey was censured during his life, though librarianship continued to revere him (his name was attached to the ALA Lifetime Achievement award until 2019). Why is librarianship only just now coming to terms with this legacy? #critlib

♡ 15 1:40 AM - Oct 2, 2019



👤 See Zoe Fisher (she/hers)'s other Tweets



Kate Crowe 🌿🍂🍁
@kcrowe



I legit don't remember but I am fairly sure it wasn't during library school. #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q1. When did you first learn about Melvil Dewey's racism/anti-semitism/misogyny? How did you learn about it? #critlib

♡ 10 1:40 AM - Oct 2, 2019



👤 See Kate Crowe 🌿🍂🍁's other Tweets





Ms. T. Mo. ❤️

@LibFeminista



A4. Honestly? B/C as a collective we are generally not doing any kind of reading and self education outside of our small world. Critical Ethnic studies, feminist studies can give us tools and we mostly ignore these fields so we can't even see a problem. 1/? #critlib

♡ 24 1:40 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Ms. T. Mo. ❤️'s other Tweets](#)



ElviRussel, Mistress of the Dark 🧛‍♀️ 🌙 🍷

@russ_librarian



A4: Sorry to answer this with another question, but yeah why wasn't there a reckoning in the 1980's when every upstanding librarian supposedly knew about his misconduct??? 🤔 #critlib

♡ 5 1:41 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See ElviRussel, Mistress of the Dark 🧛‍♀️ 🌙 🍷's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber

@kevinseeber



A4. This leads into Q5, but I think engaging with the problems of the past involves acknowledging the persistent injustices of the present. It's hard for white folks to acknowledge white supremacy, but that's not an excuse. #critlib

♡ 9 1:41 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)





Jamie Howe
@Gaymerbrarian



It's also worth interrogating the very idea of being able to put these ideas in a structured hierarchy rather than the negotiation that takes place around identity [#critlib](#)
twitter.com/LibFeminista/s...

Ms. T. Mo. ❤️ @LibFeminista
Replying to @violetbfox

And also—there are some subjects that will NEVER be efficient based on the system of dominance. BIPOC, Queer, disabled and non dominant groups are always going to be seen as inefficient to exist in their truest forms@

♡ 4 1:41 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jamie Howe's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber · 15h



Q4. Dewey was censured during his life, though librarianship continued to revere him (his name was attached to the ALA Lifetime Achievement award until 2019). Why is librarianship only just now coming to terms with this legacy? [#critlib](#)



Dr.EB
@LNBeI

Dewey is joining a large crowd of male misogynist 'icons' who are being toppled by the clarity of [#metoo](#) and [#metoohighered](#) it's no longer OK to say oh he was just one of those handsy guys. [#critlib](#)

♡ 4 1:42 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Dr.EB's other Tweets](#)





Ms. T. Mo. ❤️ @LibFeminista · 15h



A4. Honestly? B/C as a collective we are generally not doing any kind of reading and self education outside of our small world. Critical Ethnic studies, feminist studies can give us tools and we mostly ignore these fields so we can't even see a problem. 1/?#critlib



Ms. T. Mo. ❤️
@LibFeminista

And I'm going to say it DEI WORK WILL NOT SAVE US HERE. It won't. It takes organizing and not corporate neo liberal models to fix it. It doesn't work. #critlib

♡ 15 1:42 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Ms. T. Mo. ❤️'s other Tweets



Jamia Williams, MLS
@LibrarianJamia



A3 I think we have to be honest about why this is a "feminine" profession. Since the residue of this is still present in regards to our salary inequities. Our profession should not be self sacrificing. We have a lot of work to do. This is just one aspect of Dewey's legacy. #critlib

♡ 11 1:42 AM - Oct 2, 2019 · Chili Center, NY



See Jamia Williams, MLS's other Tweets



Gina Murrell
@GinaMurrell1



A4. A major library association taking his name off an award jump-started much of the recent conversation, definitely. #critlib

♡ 4 1:43 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Gina Murrell's other Tweets





ElviRussel, Mistress of the Dark 🧛🌙👾 @ru... · 15h

A4: Sorry to answer this with another question, but yeah why wasn't there a reckoning in the 1980's when every upstanding librarian supposedly knew about his misconduct??? 🤔 #critlib



Kevin Seeber

@kevinseeber

That is 100% a fair question for the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, and today. #critlib
americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoo...

♡ 3 1:43 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



ElviRussel, Mistress of the Dark 🧛🌙👾 @ru... · 15h

A4: Sorry to answer this with another question, but yeah why wasn't there a reckoning in the 1980's when every upstanding librarian supposedly knew about his misconduct??? 🤔 #critlib



Violet Fox 🦊

@violetbfox

I'm frustrated about this too, but more importantly, how can we make sure we're not having this same discussion 30 years from now? How do we make it clear to new library workers and the public that this is not what/who we want to emulate? #critlib

♡ 3 1:43 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets](#)



Jessica Schomberg

@schomj



A3. Talk about it, engage in (hopefully generative) conflict about it, remember that systems are built by people #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q3. How can we address Dewey's ongoing influence in libraries and repair some of the harm he caused? #critlib

♡ 9 1:43 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jessica Schomberg's other Tweets](#)





Ms. T. Mo. ❤️ @LibFeminista · 15h



Replying to @LibFeminista

And I'm going to say it DEI WORK WILL NOT SAVE US HERE. It won't. It takes organizing and not corporate neo liberal models to fix it. It doesn't work. #critlib



Ms. T. Mo. ❤️

@LibFeminista

All we do is cycle through buzz words around these issues without doing the actual work. Anti-racist means something and it doesn't mean inclusion. We gotta stop invoking things without knowledge or actual course of action #critlib

♡ 26 1:44 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Ms. T. Mo. ❤️'s other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber · 15h



Replying to @beadjunky18

Thanks for sharing! I'm curious--did you find it on your own? Or was it referred to you? #critlib



Patty Dwyer

@beadjunky18

I am so old I read it at the time. ;-) #critlib

♡ 1:45 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Patty Dwyer's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber · 15h



A4. This leads into Q5, but I think engaging with the problems of the past involves acknowledging the persistent injustices of the present. It's hard for white folks to acknowledge white supremacy, but that's not an excuse. #critlib



Jamie Howe

@Gaymerbrarian

I think maybe this conversation needs to include your Q2 more often - it's not just "he was a creep" and "ddc has problems" but "he was a creep and that is part of why ddc has problems" #critlib

♡ 5 1:45 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Jamie Howe's other Tweets](#)





ElviRussel, Mistress of the Dark 🧛🌙👾 @ru... · 15h

A4: Sorry to answer this with another question, but yeah why wasn't there a reckoning in the 1980's when every upstanding librarian supposedly knew about his misconduct??? 🤔 #critlib



Dr.EB
@LNBel

FYI some of those 1989-90s upstanding librarians were not so innocent of harrasement themselves #critlib

♡ 1 1:46 AM - Oct 2, 2019

[See Dr.EB's other Tweets](#)



Jessica Schomberg
@schomj

A4. Because taking on sacred cows involves conflict and potential loss of support from legislators/funders, and the type of library organizations he helped to define are terrified by both #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q4. Dewey was censured during his life, though librarianship continued to revere him (his name was attached to the ALA Lifetime Achievement award until 2019). Why is librarianship only just now coming to terms with this legacy? #critlib

♡ 3 1:46 AM - Oct 2, 2019

[See Jessica Schomberg's other Tweets](#)



Ms. T. Mo. ❤️ @LibFeminista · 15h

Replying to @LibFeminista

All we do is cycle through buzz words around these issues without doing the actual work. Anti-racist means something and it doesn't mean inclusion. We gotta stop invoking things without knowledge or actual course of action #critlib



Ms. T. Mo. ❤️
@LibFeminista

So the field isn't really coming to terms with things because it's never been about anti-racist work and the field hasn't done its homework to figure out that they're pathways that exist beyond corporate structures and neo liberal education strategies. #critlib

♡ 18 1:46 AM - Oct 2, 2019

[See Ms. T. Mo. ❤️'s other Tweets](#)



Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1 · 15h



A4. A major library association taking his name off an award jump-started much of the recent conversation, definitely. #critlib



Gina Murrell
@GinaMurrell1

A4.2 But as libraries increasingly embrace diversity, equity & inclusion initiatives, they're questioning the old ways of librarian-ing. #critlib

♡ 6 1:46 AM - Oct 2, 2019



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



Erin 🌸🍵🧑🏻🧑🏻🍦🐙🧶🦋🍰🚩👤📖
@cybrarerin



A3: could also start mentioning it every time someone talks about it. Is it possible to rename the system? Can we choose a different one? #critlib

♡ 3 1:47 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Erin 🌸🍵🧑🏻🧑🏻🍦🐙🧶🦋🍰🚩👤📖's other Tweets](#)



Erin 🌸🍵🧑🏻🧑🏻🍦🐙🧶🦋🍰🚩👤📖 @cybrarerin · 15h



A3: could also start mentioning it every time someone talks about it. Is it possible to rename the system? Can we choose a different one? #critlib



Erin 🌸🍵🧑🏻🧑🏻🍦🐙🧶🦋🍰🚩👤📖
@cybrarerin

Is it easier for academic librarians to criticize Dewey and start demanding action than public librarians? #critlib

♡ 1:47 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Erin 🌸🍵🧑🏻🧑🏻🍦🐙🧶🦋🍰🚩👤📖's other Tweets](#)





Kate Crowe 🌿🍂🍁
@kcrowe



I can see it in a weird way in my own family life. My mom was a lib school student at the inst where I am now an archivist & hello poor records mgmt we hadn't properly disposed of LIS student apps from the 60s. I found her eval by profs at the time of admission. #critlib 1/2 twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q2. In addition to the DDC, Melvil Dewey made a huge impact. In your daily work in libraries, or when you study libraries, where do you see evidence of his influence? #critlib

♡ 19 1:47 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kate Crowe](#) 🌿🍂🍁's other Tweets



Kate Crowe 🌿🍂🍁 @kcrowe · 15h



I can see it in a weird way in my own family life. My mom was a lib school student at the inst where I am now an archivist & hello poor records mgmt we hadn't properly disposed of LIS student apps from the 60s. I found her eval by profs at the time of admission. #critlib 1/2 twitter.com/kevinseeber/st..

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q2. In addition to the DDC, Melvil Dewey made a huge impact. In your daily work in libraries, or when you study libraries, where do you see evidence of his influence? #critlib



Kate Crowe 🌿🍂🍁
@kcrowe

Not a word about her intellect, it was all abt her sweet disposition, pleasing voice, & calm demeanor (this was late 1960s). Mind you, my mother received a PhD in LIS and was involved in early automation research at OCLC. She was brilliant. THAT is Dewey's legacy. 2/2 #critlib

♡ 37 1:47 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kate Crowe](#) 🌿🍂🍁's other Tweets





Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber



Q5. The example of Melvil Dewey indicates that librarianship often ignores its history. What resources would you recommend to help people learn more about how librarianship got to where it is today? #critlib

♡ 6 1:47 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets



Josh @Auth0rityCTRL · 15h



I thought about this a lot in library school. There are several steps we need to take organizationally, ontologically, and epistemologically. I'm probably going to have to thread this one in order to make it readable because this is going to be too many words. #critlib
twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q3. How can we address Dewey's ongoing influence in libraries and repair some of the harm he caused? #critlib



Josh
@Auth0rityCTRL

Organizationally, we have to reject the para/professional dichotomy. A hierarchy with pages, library technical assistants, librarians, etc. is in my mind a relic of sexist and classist designs carried over from Dewey's era. #CritLib 1/?

♡ 6 1:48 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Josh's other Tweets



Jaena Rae 🧑
@jaenarae



Say it LOUDER. #critlib twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

Violet Fox 🦊 @violetbfox

A3. We're still not even past the first step, acknowledging the problem. I recognize that I live in a glass house here, but quit naming your library animals after him. Quit naming your podcasts after him. Quit with the punny Twitter handles. #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

♡ 1:48 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Jaena Rae 🧑's other Tweets





Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox



Can I ask the #critlib community in general? Do you think renaming the classification is a good idea?
[twitter.com/cybrarerin/sta...](https://twitter.com/cybrarerin/status/1171111111)

Erin 🌸🍵🧘👩🏫🍦🐙🧶🦋🍰🚢👤📚 @cybrarerin

A3: could also start mentioning it every time someone talks about it. Is it possible to rename the system? Can we choose a different one? #critlib

♡ 9 1:48 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets](#)



Erin 🌸🍵🧘👩🏫🍦🐙🧶🦋🍰🚢👤📚 @cybrarerin · 15h

Replying to @cybrarerin

Is it easier for academic librarians to criticize Dewey and start demanding action than public librarians? #critlib



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

It's only easier for the academic librarians who turn a blind eye to the flaws of LC. And they deserve no corner.
#critlib

♡ 4 1:49 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Josh @Auth0rityCTRL · 15h

Replying to @Auth0rityCTRL

Organizationally, we have to reject the para/professional dichotomy. A hierarchy with pages, library technical assistants, librarians, etc. is in my mind a relic of sexist and classist designs carried over from Dewey's era. #CritLib
1/?



Josh
@Auth0rityCTRL

It has been the case in my experience that page jobs are typically not designed with the welfare of the employee in mind, and that pages are also either treated with disdain or their contributions downplayed. It's not a coincidence that many of them are young either. #Critlib
2/?

♡ 4 1:50 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Josh's other Tweets](#)





Violet Fox 🦊 @violetbfox · 15h



A3. We're still not even past the first step, acknowledging the problem. I recognize that I live in a glass house here, but quit naming your library animals after him. Quit naming your podcasts after him. Quit with the punny Twitter handles. #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q3. How can we address Dewey's ongoing influence in libraries and repair some of the harm he caused? #critlib



Kevin Seeber

@kevinseeber

QUIT PUTTING THAT BIGOT'S FACE ON A TOTE BAG.

#critlib

♡ 22 1:51 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Alycia

@alyciaicyla



Missed Wiegand at UW but lived in the shadow of that book. Fav moment in zine librarianship was when a zinester read its index at a Quimby's reading during ALA, very relevant to these discussions #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

A1. For my part, I was fortunate to have Wayne Wiegand as a professor in library school (c. 2007). I don't know that I gave MD much thought before Wiegand's class, but WW didn't pull punches re: Dewey and lots of other aspects of U.S. library history. #critlib #thankswayne

♡ 3 1:51 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Alycia's other Tweets](#)





Erin 🌸🍲🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻 @cybrarerin · 15h

Replying to @cybrarerin

Is it easier for academic librarians to criticize Dewey and start demanding action than public librarians? #critlib



Jamie Howe
@Gaymerbrarian

I wonder if that's an effect of Dewey in a way I'm struggling to put together coherently? Like, the director-staff relationship is different in publifs vs the independent researcher/scholar of the acadlib? I'm sort of throwing darts but it feels like at something #critlib

♡ 1 1:51 AM - Oct 2, 2019

See Jamie Howe's other Tweets



Zoe Fisher (she/hers)
@zoh_zoh

REVOLTING LIBRARIANS REDUX (2003) and its original companion, REVOLTING LIBRARIANS (1972). Everything old is new again. #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q5. The example of Melvil Dewey indicates that librarianship often ignores its history. What resources would you recommend to help people learn more about how librarianship got to where it is today? #critlib

♡ 19 1:52 AM - Oct 2, 2019

See Zoe Fisher (she/hers)'s other Tweets



Violet Fox 🐱 @violetbfox · 15h

Can I ask the #critlib community in general? Do you think renaming the classification is a good idea? twitter.com/cybrarerin/sta...

Erin 🌸🍲🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻 @cybrarerin

A3: could also start mentioning it every time someone talks about it. Is it possible to rename the system? Can we choose a different one? #critlib



Jamie Howe
@Gaymerbrarian

There are other classification schemes. #critlib

♡ 1 1:52 AM - Oct 2, 2019

See Jamie Howe's other Tweets



Tina Gross @aboutness · 15h



A1. In library school, in basic "Organizing Information" proto-cataloging class. The professor (Arlene Taylor) told us that Dewey was a "reprobate" because of sexism, racism, anti-Semitism, etc. #critlib



Dr.EB
@LNBel

Oh I loved my class with Arlene Taylor! I still use some of the concepts she taught me. #critlib

♡ 4 1:52 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Dr.EB's other Tweets



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber



A5.1 Again, Wayne Wiegand is an authority on Dewey and lots of other library history. Read his books. I also recommend reading as much by Christine Pawley as you can. #critlib

♡ 7 1:52 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets



Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber · 15h



A5.1 Again, Wayne Wiegand is an authority on Dewey and lots of other library history. Read his books. I also recommend reading as much by Christine Pawley as you can. #critlib



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

A5.2 Two specific citations are Todd Honma digitalnais.org/wp-content/upl... and Gina Schlesselman-Tarango/ @ginaschlesscholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/library-public... #critlib



The Legacy of Lady Bountiful: White ...

White supremacy and patriarchy have acted upon and through the white female body, which has implications for library and scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu

♡ 7 1:52 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets





Erin 🌸🍲👩🏫🧁🐙🧶🦋🍰🚢👤📖 @cybrarerin · 15h

A3: could also start mentioning it every time someone talks about it. Is it possible to rename the system? Can we choose a different one? #critlib



Tim Spalding
@librarythingtim

@OCLC owns Dewey®, Dewey Decimal Classification®, WebDewey® and so forth. Trademark law and a history of suing people on specious copyright grounds is how they continue to control and profit from a system designed in 1876. The name won't let that go easily. #critlib

♡ 3 1:53 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Tim Spalding's other Tweets



Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox



A5. I just finished Cheryl Knott's "Not free, not for all : public libraries in the age of Jim Crow" worldcat.org/oclc/984775673. It is infuriating and necessary and highly recommended. #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q5. The example of Melvil Dewey indicates that librarianship often ignores its history. What resources would you recommend to help people learn more about how librarianship got to where it is today? #critlib

♡ 25 1:54 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets





Josh @Auth0rityCTRL · 15h



Replying to @Auth0rityCTRL

It has been the case in my experience that page jobs are typically not designed with the welfare of the employee in mind, and that pages are also either treated with disdain or their contributions downplayed. It's not a coincidence that many of them are young either. #Critlib 2/?



Josh

@Auth0rityCTRL

The answer to this issue is to spread the various responsibilities across the different positions in the library, and to adopt an approach of mentorship and stewardship that welcomes new library workers rather than subjecting them to sub-par employment conditions. #critlib 3/?

♡ 3 1:55 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Josh's other Tweets



Violet Fox 🦊 @violetbfox · 15h



Can I ask the #critlib community in general? Do you think renaming the classification is a good idea?

[twitter.com/cybrarerin/sta...](https://twitter.com/cybrarerin/status/1171111111)

Erin 🌸 🍲 🐼 🧑 🍦 🧶 🦋 🍰 🚢 🧠 📚 @cybrarerin

A3: could also start mentioning it every time someone talks about it. Is it possible to rename the system? Can we choose a different one? #critlib



Kevin Seeber

@kevinseeber

Someday. Maybe someday soon? But we (meaning exactly and explicitly WE) will have to put these issues on blast. #critlib #StartingToDoOurPart

♡ 5 1:55 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets





Kate Crowe 🌿🍂🍁
@kcrowe



A4. For the same reason we haven't come to terms with the whiteness of our profession overall. It's baked in. It's a feature, not a bug. #critlib
twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q4. Dewey was censured during his life, though librarianship continued to revere him (his name was attached to the ALA Lifetime Achievement award until 2019). Why is librarianship only just now coming to terms with this legacy? #critlib

♡ 25 1:56 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See [Kate Crowe](#) 🌿🍂🍁's other Tweets



anonymous critlib
@critlib_anon



Announcements time? #critlib

♡ 1:56 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See [anonymous critlib's](#) other Tweets



Tim Spalding @librarythingtim · 15h



Replying to @cybrarerin

@OCLC owns Dewey®, Dewey Decimal Classification®, WebDewey® and so forth. Trademark law and a history of suing people on specious copyright grounds is how they continue to control and profit from a system designed in 1876. The name won't let that go easily. #critlib



Tim Spalding
@librarythingtim

*They won't let go of the name easily.

But they'll do it if the name becomes sufficiently toxic. Or, perhaps, if they decide to really strike out and create something new. If it's really new, there'd be a lot of new services to sell, and they'd own them 100%. #critlib

♡ 5 1:57 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See [Tim Spalding's](#) other Tweets





Josh @Auth0rityCTRL · 14h



Replying to @Auth0rityCTRL

The answer to this issue is to spread the various responsibilities across the different positions in the library, and to adopt an approach of mentorship and stewardship that welcomes new library workers rather than subjecting them to sub-par employment conditions. #critlib 3/?



Josh

@Auth0rityCTRL

Similarly, the fetishization and sexual harassment of women working in libraries is also something extending from Dewey's time and conceptualization of the role of women in libraries. We need to stand up for our colleagues and aggressively work to prevent this. #critlib 4/?

♡ 4 1:57 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Josh's other Tweets](#)



Kate Crowe 🌿🍁🍁🍁 @kcrowe · 15h



Replying to @loislibrarian

She absolutely did. It's also the double edged sword of how white women were perceived vs women librarians of color - I shudder to think what those evals looked like at PWIs.



Deborah

@loislibrarian

Well many black librarians struggled to be employed at PWIs prior to integration. Many worked at HBCUs and built impressive collections. And the biggest acad libraries are still some of the whitest places. #critlib

♡ 1 1:58 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Deborah's other Tweets](#)



 **anonymous critlib**
@critlib_anon



#critlib #SaveSCSU_Library allies & accomplices, here are some tweets from SCSU president Robbyn Wacker that are begging for critical responses:twitter.com/DrRobbynWacker...twitter.com/DrRobbynWacker...

Dr. Robbyn R Wacker @DrRobbynWacker

Thanks to Jim Maurice @jmaurice & Tom Steman, @stcloudstate SCSU Archivist @SCSU_Library for the opportunity to talk on air at noon today about St. Cloud State's Sesquicentennial on @WJON_News WJON today. We have a wonderful history and a bright future ahead!

♡ 4 1:58 AM - Oct 2, 2019



 [See anonymous critlib's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber



Our hour is almost up, but two quick things before you leave: 1. Can we get a volunteer to archive this chat using Wakelet or something similar? 2. Use the hashtag #critpitch if you'd like to raise awareness among the #critlib community! What should people know about?

♡ 1 1:58 AM - Oct 2, 2019



 [See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



 **anonymous critlib**
@critlib_anon



#critlib #SaveSCSU_Library allies & accomplices, here are two more tweets from SCSU president Robbyn Wacker that are begging for critical responses:twitter.com/DrRobbynWacker...twitter.com/DrRobbynWacker...

Dr. Robbyn R Wacker @DrRobbynWacker

Husky Library Lawn Party! Stay Curious! @stcloudstate @SCSU_Library #unleashCurious



♡ 2 1:59 AM - Oct 2, 2019



 See anonymous critlib's other Tweets



 **Kevin Seeber**
@kevinseeber



My #critpitch is that you read about #SaveSCSU_Library and see what you can do to support library colleagues who are losing their jobs because their Provost (#clownshoes) can't tell the difference between a cell phone and a library. #critlib

♡ 19 1:59 AM - Oct 2, 2019



 See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets





Josh @Auth0rityCTRL · 14h



Replying to @Auth0rityCTRL

Similarly, the fetishization and sexual harassment of women working in libraries is also something extending from Dewey's time and conceptualization of the role of women in libraries. We need to stand up for our colleagues and aggressively work to prevent this. #critlib 4/?



Josh

@Auth0rityCTRL

Ontologically, we need to reconsider how approach representation in cataloging and classification. We need to dispense with this white supremacist ethnographic approach, and allow for underrepresented voices to speak for themselves. We need to collaborate. #critlib 5/?

♡ 2 2:00 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Josh's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber

@kevinseeber



Another #critpitch is that you--YES YOU--propose a #critlib chat. We did these every couple of weeks for a few years, and I think a lot of us learned and grew as a result. Only happens if people propose a topic and write Q's, though. [critlib.org/twitter-chats/...](http://critlib.org/twitter-chats/)

♡ 13 2:00 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



anonymous critlib

@critlib_anon



#critlib #SaveSCSU_Library Other things to look out for:
-The hashtag #unleashAmazing (frothy promotional campaign)
-References to "It's time" (see today.stcloudstate.edu/its-time-presi...)

♡ 1 2:00 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See anonymous critlib's other Tweets](#)





Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox



A5 (cont). Check out the reading list on the [#critlib](#) chat about the history of critical librarianship. critlib.org/history-of-cri... Critical librarianship certainly didn't start this conversation, it's just a continuation, with some differences. twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q5. The example of Melvil Dewey indicates that librarianship often ignores its history. What resources would you recommend to help people learn more about how librarianship got to where it is today? #critlib

♡ 30 2:01 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Violet Fox](#) 🦊's other Tweets



Violet Fox 🦊 @violetbfox · 14h



A5 (cont). Check out the reading list on the [#critlib](#) chat about the history of critical librarianship. critlib.org/history-of-cri... Critical librarianship certainly didn't start this conversation, it's just a continuation, with some differences. twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

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Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox

If anyone would like to start a library history reading book club with me, I would really like to make that happen. The more context I know, the easier it is to see damaging patterns and envision ways to break free. [#critlib](#)

♡ 44 2:01 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[17 people are talking about this](#)





Josh @Auth0rityCTRL · 14h



Replying to @Auth0rityCTRL

Ontologically, we need to reconsider how approach representation in cataloging and classification. We need to dispense with this white supremacist ethnographic approach, and allow for underrepresented voices to speak for themselves. We need to collaborate. #critlib 5/?



Josh

@Auth0rityCTRL

it is vitally important that we seek to elevate new conceptualizations, and while the push to do this institutionally is important, I think that institutions need to take more responsibility and begin making changes, whether endorsed by DDC or LCSH or not. #critlib 6/?

♡ 2 2:01 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Josh's other Tweets



anonymous critlib @critlib_anon · 14h



Announcements time? #critlib



Zoe Fisher (she/hers)

@zoh_zoh

1. The program for #acrlpnw19 is far more radical and inspiring than anything happening with ACRL National: acrlwa.org
2. Please come to Seattle in July for #liw20. The conference theme is Justice. Program/registration forthcoming in February. #critlib

♡ 7 2:02 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Zoe Fisher (she/hers)'s other Tweets



Jamie Howe

@Gaymerbrarian



Part of me wants to advocate for a required course in library school, but there are so many problems with implementing that #critlib twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q5. The example of Melvil Dewey indicates that librarianship often ignores its history. What resources would you recommend to help people learn more about how librarianship got to where it is today? #critlib

♡ 6 2:02 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Jamie Howe's other Tweets





Melissa Wong

@LISafterclass



Thanks for leading tonight's [#critlib](#) conversation, [@kevinseeber](#). Thinking about how to work this into my teaching!

♡ 7 2:03 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Melissa Wong's other Tweets](#)



Josh @Auth0rityCTRL · 14h



Replying to @Auth0rityCTRL

it is vitally important that we seek to elevate new conceptualizations, and while the push to do this institutionally is important, I think that institutions need to take more responsibility and begin making changes, whether endorsed by DDC or LCSH or not. [#critlib](#) 6/?



Josh

@Auth0rityCTRL

Words can be weapons, and the way we present the conceptualization of different kinds of people can shape the public understanding and treatment of people. We need to be humanist in our approach to representation. This isn't science, we are knee-deep in subjectivity. [#critlib](#) 7/?

♡ 2 2:04 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Josh's other Tweets](#)



Gina Murrell

@GinaMurrell1



A5. Radical librarian groups, POC/Black librarians like [@AprilHathcock](#), & POC info/library communities like [@librarieswehere](#) & [@wocandlib](#) are great resources for looking at librarianship through a critical lens. And, of course, [#critlib](#).

♡ 14 2:04 AM - Oct 2, 2019



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





Jamie Howe @Gaymerbrarian · 14h



Part of me wants to advocate for a required course in library school, but there are so many problems with implementing that [#critlib](#) [twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...](https://twitter.com/kevinseeber/status/1168111111111111111)

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Q5. The example of Melvil Dewey indicates that librarianship often ignores its history. What resources would you recommend to help people learn more about how librarianship got to where it is today? [#critlib](#)



Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox

I don't think that's the answer. I think we can and should use our intellectual curiosity to understand the profession we're a part of after our MLIS education. And educate each other, instead of this knee-jerk reaction of "oh EVERYBODY knows that already". [#critlib](#)

♡ 5 2:04 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets](#)



Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber



Alright, that's it folks! Thanks to you all for participating and many, many thanks to [@violetbfox](#) for keeping these [#critlib](#) chats going. I wish you a restful evening and wonderful October. Look for an archive of tonight's chat on critlib.org coming soon.

♡ 12 2:05 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Kevin Seeber's other Tweets](#)



Dr.EB
@LNBeI



Can we blame Dewey for the false division of Technical and Reference Services? Everywhere I've been including where he had direct influence [@columbia](#) and [@nypl](#) it's been an upstairs/downstairs structure that damages all our work. [#critlib](#)

♡ 6 2:06 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Dr.EB's other Tweets](#)





Josh @Auth0rityCTRL · 14h



Replying to @Auth0rityCTRL

Words can be weapons, and the way we present the conceptualization of different kinds of people can shape the public understanding and treatment of people. We need to be humanist in our approach to representation. This isn't science, we are knee-deep in subjectivity. #critlib 7/?



Josh
@Auth0rityCTRL

Related to this, we need to shift our epistemology to account for this understanding that none of our representations are necessarily empirical, and we need to work collaboratively to come to consensus as a larger body. We need to embrace push-back when we're wrong. #critlib 8/?

♡ 2 2:06 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Josh's other Tweets



Ms. T. Mo. ❤️ @LibFeminista · 14h



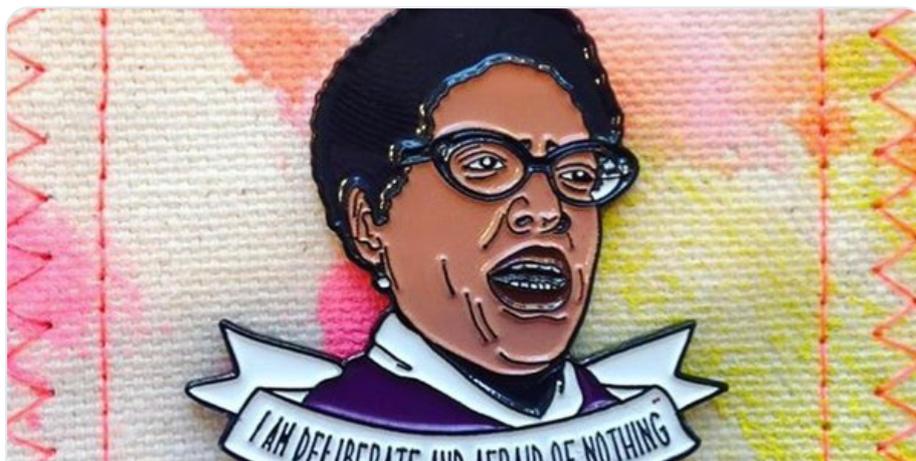
Replying to @LibFeminista and 2 others

I'm also like not kidding! This would be fab!



Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox

This fabulous Audre Lorde pin by @jbbrager is an inspiration! jbrager.bigcartel.com/product/audre-...
#critlib



Audre Lorde pin

1.5 inch soft enamel pin featuring a portrait of Black Lesbian Mother Warrior Poet Audre Lorde and the last line of jbrager.bigcartel.com

♡ 7 2:07 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Violet Fox 🦊's other Tweets





Jamia Williams, MLS

@LibrarianJamia



1st #critlib discussion went well. I am glad that I can participate. I need to read the recommended reading. So when I am a professor in 2 years, I will be ready!

♡ 15 2:08 AM - Oct 2, 2019 · Chili Center, NY



[See Jamia Williams, MLS's other Tweets](#)



Dr. Karla J. Strand

@karlajstrand



Just lurked on #critlib tonight but in light of the fab convo, wanted to share a reading list: Disrupting #Whiteness in LIS. HMU w additions! Oh and I'm Karla, @GWSLibrarian!
[#critpitchlibrary.wisc.edu/gwslibrarian/b...](#)

♡ 11 2:15 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Dr. Karla J. Strand's other Tweets](#)



Violet Fox 🐱 @violetbfox · 15h



Can I ask the #critlib community in general? Do you think renaming the classification is a good idea?
[twitter.com/cybrarerin/sta...](#)

Erin 🌸 🍲 🐼 🧑 🍦 🐙 🧶 🦋 🍰 🚢 🎮 📖 @cybrarerin

A3: could also start mentioning it every time someone talks about it. Is it possible to rename the system? Can we choose a different one? #critlib



Tina Gross

@aboutness

I go back and forth on this. For all the reasons other people are giving. I wonder if there's a way to have a deeper conversation about it? #critlib

♡ 1 2:19 AM - Oct 2, 2019



[See Tina Gross's other Tweets](#)





Jessica Dai ✨❤
@ralphratheriled



Yes! I think y'all should make a pitch. I co-moderated a [#critlib](#) chat having never participated before & it was very rewarding. Do it if you are thinking about it and sitting on the fence! [twitter.com/kevinseeber/st...](https://twitter.com/kevinseeber/status/1168111111111111111)

Kevin Seeber @kevinseeber

Another #critpitch is that you--YES YOU--propose a #critlib chat. We did these every couple of weeks for a few years, and I think a lot of us learned and grew as a result. Only happens if people propose a topic and write Q's, though. [critlib.org/twitter-chats/...](https://critlib.org/twitter-chats/)

♡ 24 2:41 AM - Oct 2, 2019



See Jessica Dai ✨❤'s other Tweets

