Archive of the October 22 2019 #critlib chat on "alternatives to policing in libraries," moderated by @LenaGluck. For more info about critlib, including past and future chats, visit http://critlib.org.

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

Suggested resources & discussion questions for Tuesday evening's #critlib chat on alternatives to policing in libraries are now available: critlib.org/alternatives-t.... Please join moderator @LenaGluck Tues Oct 22 6pm Pacific/9pm Eastern for this important conversation!

5:15 PM - Oct 20, 2019

Even if you're not available for Tuesday's chat, please take a look at the valuable resources Lena has compiled about alternatives to policing in libraries & consider the discussion questions. Feel free to add your thoughts & other resources asynchronously using #critlib hashtag.
Excited to be skimming/reading Angela Y. Davis's *Are Prisons Obsolete?* before tomorrow's #critlib—and grateful my library already has a copy I can revisit in depth later! critlib.org/alternatives-

This thread is important for today's #critlib discussion twitter.com/TerryMetterJr/

TY for the mention. I would also like to learn more about alternatives to police in Libraries. It is clear to me that short staffing in many public libraries creates conditions in which conflicts elevate to crises more rapidly than they would with adequate staff levels.
Hey y'all. It's 10 minutes until the #CritLib chat begins. Before we get started, I want to remind everyone that if you would like to anonymously contribute to the conversation, you can do so here: critlib.org/anon/

I'm looking forward to learning from/with you all.

Tonight's #CritLib will be on alternatives to policing in libraries. I would like to begin by inviting folks to introduce yourselves.

I can start: I'm a reference librarian working in the main branch of an urban public library. I've previously worked in academic & public libs

I haven't #critlib-bed in ages. I'm grateful to chat about alternatives to policing in libraries with y'all!

twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

#critlib chat on alternatives to policing in libraries will be starting soon! 9 pm Eastern, 8 pm Central, 7 pm Mountain, 6 pm Pacific. You're welcome to participate even if you haven't had a chance to review the suggested resources. Find all the questions: critlib.org/alternatives-t...
Hi #critlib, I'm Violet, a librarian-adjacent person! A warm thank you to @LenaGluck for suggesting this valuable chat topic and being willing to be a moderator!

Kevin Seeber
@kevinseeber

Hi #critlib! I'm Kevin. I work at an academic library in downtown Denver, Colorado.

Carrie on my Wade-ward son @TheGnarrator

Wish I could hang tonight but I'm slinging backpacks at my side gig. I have many thoughts on this topic since worked in policed libraries before and the question of conflicting agendas of patron ideas of safety are something I think about often, esp in harm reduction convos. twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

#critlib chat on alternatives to policing in libraries will be starting soon! 9 pm Eastern, 8 pm Central, 7 pm Mountain, 6 pm Pacific. You're welcome to participate even if you haven't had a chance to review the suggested resources. Find all the questions: critlib.org/alternatives-t...

#critlib I don't think police as they currently exist belong in libraries ever.

And I hate that our Patrons call cops on fellow patrons. There have been too many negative outcomes that disproportionately harm people of color, the disabled and intersections thereof. Period.
Dr Maura Smale  
@mauraweb

Hello #critlib, it's been a while for me as well. I'm director of the library at a public college in Brooklyn, NY, and very glad to be here.

Gina Murrell  
@GinaMurrell1

Hi #critlib! I'm Gina & I work in an academic library in San Francisco. Once worked at a public library in the Bay Area. Currently commuting home via public transit, so if my replies are intermittent, that's why.

Jenna Freedman  
@zinelib

#critlib intro I'm an academic librarian in NYC feeling self-conscious about being someone who isn't subject to and doesn't frequently witness aggressive policing in libs. However, my library did have a devastating case of campus security being violent with a student after hours.

Chelsea Misquith  
@ChelseaMisquith

Totally lurking on tonight's #critlib chat about alternatives to policing in libraries. Definitely not an expert on this, so I'm open to learning everything I can ✨✨ critlib.org/alternatives-t...
Steve: I'm a cataloger at an academic library.

Hale (they/them): I am Hale - a first-year outreach librarian working at a small liberal arts college in Western MA.

Hale (they/them): I've also interned at a public library in Southern California.

Ryan: I'm Ryan & I work in a community college library with locations in Boise & Nampa, Idaho.

Thanks to LenaGluck for planning & moderating this on such an important topic!
ALXSDHM
@ALXSDHM

Hi #CritLib! I'm Alexis, I'm an e-resources librarian at a small academic library and also an abolitionist. Very excited to follow this chat!!

CATHY
@BIBLIOCATHY

#CritLib Hi from DC! Currently an academic librarian, was previously at a public library. Very very very into this topic.

BOB ABBEY
@BIBLIOBOPDX

Hi, #CritLib! I'm a former community college librarian who after 15 years decided to make the transition to public library work.

I'm on the desk right now, so if it's OK, I'll probably just lurk tonight.

HYPERBOLBRI
@ASTROBRI

#CritLib I'm bri, copyright and schol comms in an academic library, battling a migraine and rage tonight, so may not be able to stick around.
Q1: How does the presence of police, security officers, or other security personnel affect BIPOC's ability to freely and safely access your library's resources and materials? What would have to be the case for BIPOC to be and feel safe in libraries? #CritLib

A1. In my work so far, I've seen police at the library only at the public library & I noticed everyone's energy change in response to their presence, patrons & staff from all backgrounds. #critlib

Q1 is a big question. What kind of security do people have at their libraries? Mine's, uh, a lot, I go through airport style metal detectors every day, but at least I don't have to take off my shoes. 😞 #critlib

Q1: In my library, the knowledge and experience of security personnel enforcing access rules differently for people holding different racial & other identities makes our space unwelcoming. #critlib
This is so hard to answer. I work at a college that is majority students of color. Public safety officers are very visible all over campus. We don't have an officer at the library entrance tho they do regular walkthroughs. #A1 #critlib

A1. In my work so far, I've seen police at the library only at the public library & I noticed everyone's energy change in response to their presence, patrons & staff from all backgrounds. #critlib

A2. The police came in response to reported car break-ins in the library parking lot. There was a palpable increase in tension with their presence. #critlib

In some ways the library is less policed than other parts of campus. #A1 #critlib
Jenna Freedman @zinelib

A1: I would to think that the visible presence of BIPOC staff at all levels and services helps BIPOC patrons feel like the library is a welcoming and safe place. #critlib

Nancy Foasberg @nfoasberg

I don't think I have a lot to contribute to tonight's #critlib but will definitely be reading!

Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1 · Oct 23, 2019

Replying to @GinaMurrell1

A2. The police came in response to reported car break-ins in the library parking lot. There was a palpable increase in tension with their presence. #critlib

Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

A3. The police were armed & they were called by someone on staff. In these cases, they were responding to particular incidents (car break-ins). They were not a regular presence at the library. #critlib

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck · Oct 23, 2019

Replying to @mauraweb

Do the public safety officers there reflect the racial diversity of the campus?  

Dr Maura Smale @mauraweb

Yes, I would say they do (tho the head of Public Safety is White). That's a great question that I hadn't considered. #critlib
Q2: How have you handled situations of sexual harassment/assault & other gendered violence (including anti-LGBTQ violence) in the library without involving security/police in the past? In an ideal workplace, how would you and other library staff handle these situations?
#critlib

I no longer work at the public library, but yes, they were armed during the instances when they were there.
#critlib

I'm torn when I don't have something I feel confident contributing, but as a person with white privilege, I also don't want to leave the work to others. Or is the "shut up and listen" the better approach? #critlib
twitter.com/nfoasberg/stat...
Dr Maura Smale  
@mauraweb  

Oof, that is a lot! We're internal to another campus building so don't have officers at our entrance, but to get into campus buildings you need to swipe an ID (or sign in as a guest with public safety). #critlib

Violet Fox  
@violetbfox  

Q1 is a big question. What kind of security do people have at their libraries? Mine's, uh, a lot, I go through airport style metal detectors every day, but at least I don't have to take off my shoes. 😢 #critlib

Full Throttle MLIS-ing (yep, it's a verb now)  
@rdhdbibliophile  

A1 I've worked in both Public and Academic libraries with some form of security, ranging from RFID gates at exits to security on staff at all hrs of operation. The academic lib I work in currently has no security staff, just gates. #critlib

Raquel K. W. Donahue at PVAMU  
@RaquelKWilliams  

#critlib I'm very interested to see public librarians' perspectives/responses to Q1.
I care a bunch about securitization about public spaces in general, especially about how it is happening here in Winnipeg, and how library worker safety doesn’t need to be a false dichotomy with broad patron access.

Q1: since airport-style security was implemented, our downtown branch estimates by their own numbers as 25% decline in gate counts. We know from talking to community, that BIPOC and people who use drugs feel more unsafe with the security.

A1: Each of our locations gets a periodic security walk-through. People in uniforms must create a barrier for some of our students, esp. with their range of legal statuses / experiences. Especially our BIPOC students who are overpoliced / overincarcerated.

Wow, that is a steep decline, I'm sorry.
Gina Murrell
@GinaMurrell1

A2. At the public library, there was a code of patron conduct displayed at multiple points throughout the library & it did address sexual harassment/assault. #critlib

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

A2. Not something I've dealt with before, but ideally this would be something the library staff had discussed multiple times beforehand, and had staff on hand that could make quick decisions with admin backing. #critlib
twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck

Q2: How have you handled situations of sexual harassment/assault & other gendered violence (including anti-LGBTQ violence) in the library without involving security/police in the past? In an ideal workplace, how would you and other library staff handle these situations? #critlib

Nomen Reigns
@CatalogingSteve

#critlib A1: I can't speak for bipoc patrons (I'm very white). But the absolute bare minimum we need to do for bipoc patrons is not reproduce the unequal rates of punishment of the larger carceral state within our walls.
A1: Security is a general presence on campus - campus safety and security (CSS) do regular walkthroughs of the libraries, and are responsible for closing and opening the buildings. 1/2 #critlib

Jenna Freedman @zinelib · Oct 23, 2019
I'm torn when I don't have something I feel confident contributing, but as a person with white privilege, I also don't want to leave the work to others. Or is the "shut up and listen" the better approach? #critlib
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Nancy Foasberg @nfoasberg
I don't think I have a lot to contribute to tonight's #critlib but will definitely be reading!

A2: This intersection is particularly relevant to my experience. At one position, I was sexually harassed by an armed security guard (who was supposedly there to protect me from sexual harassment) after he learned I was a lesbian. #CritLib

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck
A2. If patrons violated this code, e.g. sexually harassed library staff, staff were asked to report it to the library manager, who then filed a report that was sent to library administration. #critlib

Dr Maura Smale
@mauraweb

This is more about harassment than assault, but I continue to think on this system that a restaurant in DC implemented (h/t @foureyedsoul!):

washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-m... #Q2 #critlib

Opinion | I’m a female chef. Here’s how my restaur...
In the years since implementation, such harassment has ceased to be a problem.
washingtonpost.com
We had a code of conduct-like document, but wasn't written with the community, nor was it known to or endorsed by security staff. Also, it falls primarily on frontline staff of color to enforce, which seems like a burden.

A2. At the public library, there was a code of patron conduct displayed at multiple points throughout the library & it did address sexual harassment/assault.

There have been reports of racial profiling by CSS, so I am certain there is an impact to BIPOC.
Dr Maura Smale @mauraweb  Oct 23, 2019
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washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-m... #Q2 #critlib

Opinion | I'm a female chef. Here's how my res...
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washingtonpost.com

Dr Maura Smale
@mauraweb
I keep meaning to bring this up with all of my colleagues -- library faculty and support staff -- to see if we want to implement something similar. #Q2 #critlib

Kate Crowe @kcrowe
Hi #critlib joining late I am Kate an academic archivist / librarian in Denver!

See Dr Maura Smale's other Tweets
See Kate Crowe's other Tweets
On both a systemic and experiential level, I do not believe that the presence of police/security protects me from sexual violence. We can see the elevated rates of domestic violence among police officers. I always feel less safe, as a survivor, when police are present. #critlib

A2: This intersection is particularly relevant to my experience. At one position, I was sexually harassed by an armed security guard (who was supposedly there to protect me from sexual harassment) after he learned I was a lesbian. #CritLib

A1. Reflecting on my last library, there was security presence on campus made up almost exclusively of white men. All BIPOC officers didn't last long. This was on a campus with a large Black student population. #critlib

Campus security didn't really pay the library any mind. We were of little importance which in hindsight was okay considering the fact that during a campus shut down, they ran off to support the local police chase a suspect instead of protect the campus... #critlib
We had a campus wide shut down and I could see students walking around outside when our protocol was to stay locked in a corridor. Truly showed campus polices' priorities. #critlib

Campus security didn't really pay the library any mind. We were of little importance which in hindsight was okay considering the fact that during a campus shut down, they ran off to support the local police chase a suspect instead of protect the campus... #critlib

Q2 #critlib I have been in a lib where an anti-LGBT incident occurred, police were called (by staff) & students were forced to leave the lib. I advocated for training for staff & offered to triage issues like this in the future/asked admin to examine policies around "disruption"

A2.2. If patrons violated this code, e.g. sexually harassed library staff, staff were asked to report it to the library manager, who then filed a report that was sent to library administration. #critlib

A2.3 Library administration then issued an official ban on the patron, but the ban had to be upheld by library staff, which may include the person harassed/assaulted by the patron. #critlib
Q3: How have disability & health issues (including symptoms, mental or physical health emergencies, perceived addiction or alcoholism, etc.) been criminalized in libraries where you have worked, and what is a health-based response that could have been used instead? #critlib

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck

❤️ 6 1:24 AM - Oct 23, 2019

See Lena Gluck's other Tweets

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hyperbolbri @astrobri · Oct 23, 2019

Replying to @astrobri

Q1: since airport-style security was implemented, our downtown branch estimates by their own numbers as 25% decline in gate counts. We know from talking to community, that BIPOC and people who use drugs feel more unsafe with the security. #critlib

hyperbolbri @astrobri

When it was implemented, various communities - other downtown service providers, indigenous youth groups, harm reduction groups, health clinics, library patrons - came together to talk about the impacts and alternatives. It was amazing, and power building. #critlib

❤️ 13 1:25 AM - Oct 23, 2019

See hyperbolbri's other Tweets

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Dr.EB @LNBel

Oops late sliding into #critlib Ellen, special collections librarian academic library NYC

❤️ 4 1:25 AM - Oct 23, 2019

See Dr.EB's other Tweets
Jessica Dai
@ralphratheriled
Hi #critlib, I'm mostly here to lurk because I have a stack of readings to do. I'm Jessica, an academic librarian. This is such an important topic. Hoping to learn more!

Ryan Randall | Abolish &Prosecute ICE
@foureyedsoul
A1: Each of our locations gets a periodic security walk-through. People in uniforms must create a barrier for some of our students, esp. with their range of legal statuses / experiences. Especially our BIPOC students who are overpoliced / overincarcerated. #critlib

Ryan Randall | Abolish &Prosecute ICE
@foureyedsoul
A1.1: I can only speculate here. Since libraries aren't magically separate from the rest of society, I imagine that for BIPOC patrons to be & feel safe in libraries, society at large would need to be just. We'd need equitable policing (or its abolitionist replacement). #critlib

Virginia Pannabecker
@VPannabecker
The academic library I work at now has no gates or coordinated monitoring, though occasionally I see a campus police person walk through a floor of the library. In the past I've worked at libraries that have a more specific relationship w/law enforcement 1/2 #critlib

Violet Fox 🐱@violetbfox · Oct 23, 2019
Q1 is a big question. What kind of security do people have at their libraries? Mine's, uh, a lot, I go through airport style metal detectors every day, but at least I don't have to take off my shoes. 😕 #critlib
#critlib i was going to say "i hope no one minds if i pop in with some resources i really like" but we're all librarians here, sooo: aaron rose, what to do instead of calling the police aaronxrose.com/blog/alternati...

What To Do Instead of Calling the Police

We’ve all been there. Your neighbor is setting off fireworks at 3am. Or there’s a couple fighting outside your window and aaronxrose.com

Kate Crowe @kcrowe

I'm a white woman so I can't speak specifically to lived exp of BIPOC in our library but I have heard from multiple students of color that they have had troubling exp of over policing by campus safety on campus, which is a PWI. #critlib twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck

Q1: How does the presence of police, security officers, or other security personnel affect BIPOC's ability to freely and safely access your library's resources and materials? What would have to be the case for BIPOC to be and feel safe in libraries? #CritLib
When it was implemented, various communities - other downtown service providers, indigenous youth groups, harm reduction groups, health clinics, library patrons - came together to talk about the impacts and alternatives. It was amazing, and power building. #critlib

(... and ultimately dismissed by the Library and/or City structures). But that meeting - which never should have had to happen - made it so clear how disproportionately security effects racialized and socially marginalized communities here #critlib

A2: I have seen queer & POC deans sent into the library for what seemed like a harassment/assault investigation, which may be an effort to keep campus safety involvement at a minimum. However, there is rarely communication to the library staff about these incidents. #critlib twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Q2: How have you handled situations of sexual harassment/assault & other gendered violence (including anti-LGBTQ violence) in the library without involving security/police in the past? In an ideal workplace, how would you and other library staff handle these situations? #critlib
Related to Q1., I've noticed that my local public library staffs Black police officers. Is the idea that that will make Black folks feel more "welcome"? I'm not sure how that's supposed to be better (Also, I'm a non-Black POC, so not sure if this is my place) #critlib

We have campus security guards at the door whenever we're open. Their strictness has varied over time and is often kind of inconsistent and arbitrary; there have definitely been issues with them keeping students out. Policies have changed (improved) slightly recently #critlib

hey #critlib, I'm Jennie, excited to be back! Currently Assistant Director for Outreach and Community Engagement at Harvard Law School Library. Going to mostly lurk for my first chat in a while but wanted to say hi!
Jenna Freedman @zinelib · Oct 23, 2019
We had a code of conduct-like document, but wasn't written with the community, nor was it known to or endorsed by security staff. Also, it falls primarily on front lines staff of color to enforce, which seems like a burden. #critlib twitter.com/GinaMurrell1/s…

Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1
A2. At the public library, there was a code of patron conduct displayed at multiple points throughout the library & it did address sexual harassment/assult. #critlib

Dr Maura Smale @mauraweb
I do think my college is getting better at talking about disability/health issues, there's been a concerted effort to discuss productive ways to interact with neurodivergent students who're engaging in behaviors that may disturb others. #Q3 #critlib
In acad libraries I've worked in w/ a relat w/police, they weren't a constant presence. To further reduce a sense of needing to call at times & better support patrons, incl homeless community, we trained in de-escalation techniques & had info on nearby Soc svcs #critlib

Hi everyone! Jumping in late here but hi everyone my name is kelly and I am a public librarian 🙋 #critlib

If you say "third space" three times quickly, you can invoke a magical veil of locational awe! All the systemic, material, etc harms that social sciences recognize will be instantly suspended within your branch! #critlib
The library where I currently work is also downtown. We have tattletape gates, but free access to the library, and Campus Security... kinda watch things.

(... and ultimately dismissed by the Library and/or City structures). But that meeting - which never should have had to happen - made it so clear how disproportionately security effects racialized and socially marginalized communities here #critlib

This is a really hard one because it could pertain to patrons or staff and those get handled v differently. I dunno if I have a succinct response on this one. #critlib

twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...
Cathy @bibliocathy

Love this resource in general + for #critlib in particular -- the most troubling incident I've seen with campus police was when they were called for a student who was looking for mental health support :(  (1/2)

5 1:36 AM - Oct 23, 2019

See Cathy's other Tweets

alxsdhm @alxsdhm · Oct 23, 2019

#critlib i was going to say "i hope no one minds if i pop in with some resources i really like" but we're all librarians here, sooo: aaron rose, what to do instead of calling the police aaronxrose.com/blog/alternati...

What To Do Instead of Calling t...
We've all been there. Your neighbor is setting off fireworks at 3am. Or there's a couple fighting outside your aaronxrose.com

Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

A3. During my time at the public library, a patron was repeatedly banned for drinking at the library. The patron, who was also homeless, exhibited the behaviors of an alcoholic. #critlib

1 1:36 AM - Oct 23, 2019

See Gina Murrell's other Tweets
Far from ideal, but the focus was always on securing some sense of security for the child/young adult first, and giving staff members time to mobilize together (at least two members) so no one confronted someone alone #critlib

Virginia Pannabecker @VPannabecker · Oct 23, 2019
In acad libraries I’ve worked in w/ a relat w/police, they weren’t a constant presence. To further reduce a sense of needing to call at times & better support patrons, incl homeless community, we trained in de-escalation techniques & had info on nearby Soc svcs #critlib

I was excited to see the resources shared for tonight’s #critlib chat! I’m looking forward to reviewing these and everyone’s tweets to learn more. Thanks @ChelseaMisquith for tweeting about the #critlib chat series! 😊 I hadn’t come across it before.
Hard to know without knowing the demographics of the police department in general; I'm not sure if that's a motivation or not. I recently read an interesting article on the identity issues of black police officers within the system we have: harvardlawreview.org/2018/05/the-bl.... #critlib

Chelsea Misquith @ChelseaMisquith · Oct 23, 2019
Related to Q1., I've noticed that my local public library staffs Black police officers. Is the idea that that will make Black folks feel more "welcome"? I'm not sure how that's supposed to be better (Also, I'm a non-Black POC, so not sure if this is my place) #critlib

Violet Fox 🐾
@violetbfox

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck · Oct 23, 2019
Q3: How have disability & health issues (including symptoms, mental or physical health emergencies, perceived addiction or alcoholism, etc.) been criminalized in libraries where you have worked, and what is a health-based response that could have been used instead? #critlib

Dr.EB @LNBel

A3 - We don't try to regulate noise around reference desk. We have designated super quiet areas successfully patron regulated. Our college security officers carry narcan and are trained in responding to health emergencies. #critlib
A2: We've had stalking and sexual harassment, unfortunately, but not the others. We've used the color-coded model from this article for the last year or so: washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-m...

I expect we'd need a lot of deescalation / intervention practice for other situations. #critlib

Opinion | I’m a female chef. Here’s how my restaur...
In the years since implementation, such harassment has ceased to be a problem.
washingtonpost.com

Gina Murrell
@GinaMurrell1 · Oct 23, 2019
A3. During my time at the public library, a patron was repeatedly banned for drinking at the library. The patron, who was also homeless, exhibited the behaviors of an alcoholic. #critlib

Gina Murrell
@GinaMurrell1
A3.2 Instead of repeatedly banning this patron, maybe the library could have had an addiction counselor based at the library in order to assist this individual, or someone trained to work with the homeless (which we weren't). #critlib
Chelsea Misquith
@ChelseaMisquith

There's this short zine titled "12 things to do instead of calling the cops", by @sproutdistro, that I had come across on FB a while back: sproutdistro.com/catalog/zines/... #critlib

12 Things to do Instead of Calling th...
This short zine offers 12 suggestions that people can do instead of calling the cops. They focus a lot on simple things that can sproutdistro.com

Lena Gluck
@LenaGluck

Q4. In the event of white supremacists, anti-LGBT hate groups, or a mass shooter targeting your library, what would have to be the case for you to feel safe and prepared without relying on police? #critlib

See Lena Gluck's other Tweets
And community services at said community meeting proudly displayed how many unused safety capped needles they had confiscated since the new policy went into place. So... even safe drug use is definitely heavily stigmatized and misunderstood. #critlib
And community services at said community meeting proudly displayed how many unused safety capped needles they had confiscated since the new policy went into place. So... even safe drug use is definitely heavily stigmatized and misunderstood. #critlib

Literally any evidence-based, health-based, or harm-reduction based approach would be better. #critlib

And community services at said community meeting proudly displayed how many unused safety capped needles they had confiscated since the new policy went into place. So... even safe drug use is definitely heavily stigmatized and misunderstood. #critlib

Dr.EB · Oct 23, 2019
A3 - We don't try to regulate noise around reference desk. We have designated super quiet areas successfully patron regulated. Our college security officers carry narcan and are trained in responding to health emergencies. #critlib

Rather than working against inevitability of college security officers who regulate the library in many ways, we always have a librarian on the security advisory committee to effect change. Lately is been me. I'm also the accessibility liaison. #critlib

Kate Crowe · Oct 23, 2019
Also Q3 #critlib twitter.com/kcrowe/status/...
A1: I know we’re here talking about police presence, but honestly I think we need to stake a step back and look at better staff training to help make folks feel safer in our spaces. Relationships > rules. #critlib
twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...
Lena Gluck @LenaGluck

#CritLib twitter.com/astrobri/status...

hyperbolbri @astrobri
Replying to @LenaGluck

We did a giant report! osf.io/preprints/liss... #critlib

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck

Q5. If you have succeeded in starting conversations with coworkers, or supervisors about alternative means to maintain library safety and behavioral boundaries without calling police, how did you do it? What was well received and what wasn’t? #critlib

Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1

A4. This is a good question I wish I knew how to answer. Working as a petite Black woman & the only Black public librarian in the entire county - a county known for its social & political conservatism - there were definitely times when I felt unsafe. #critlib twitter.com/LenaGluck/status...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck

Q4. In the event of white supremacists, anti-LGBT hate groups, or a mass shooter targeting your library, what would have to be the case for you to feel safe and prepared without relying on police? #critlib
A4: We have been targeted by anti-semetic and anti-LGBTQ hate groups, but they usually plan some more passive demonstration - like pamphleting books or grafifting the building. It is troubling, but it hasn't yet reached the level of making me feel unsafe. #critlib #privilege

twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck
Q4. In the event of white supremacists, anti-LGBT hate groups, or a mass shooter targeting your library, what would have to be the case for you to feel safe and prepared without relying on police? #critlib

twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

kelly @klthoreson
A2: we post a domestic abuse helpline in the bathrooms. Actually intervening can be a bit tricky though and I still don’t think I’ve got it right. If a couple is fighting in the library I will usually come over and say I heard yelling and wanted to check everyone is ok. #critlib

twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck
Q2: How have you handled situations of sexual harassment/assault & other gendered violence (including anti-LGBTQ violence) in the library without involving security/police in the past? In an ideal workplace, how would you and other library staff handle these situations? #critlib
AHHH #critlib I had neglected to turn the anonymous relay on! If anyone would like to tweet anonymously, the option is now open at critlib.org/anon. Sorry about that folks!

Paul Jewell @pdjewell

Big and important questions for library staff now on your #critlib channel twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck

Q4. In the event of white supremacists, anti-LGBT hate groups, or a mass shooter targeting your library, what would have to be the case for you to feel safe and prepared without relying on police? #critlib

Jessica Dai @ralphratheriled

A4. I keep thinking about this question. I just can't think of *anything* that makes me feel safer in this climate where these threats are so real. #critlib
Lena Gluck @LenaGluck

I think checking in is actually a great deescalation strategy when witnessing abuse. #critlib

Dr Maura Smale @mauraweb

We are working on it. At our last library faculty/staff meeting we talked about getting some descalation training, and other ideas. I want to be sure we take faculty/staff safety concerns into account too. It's an ongoing process. #Q5 #critlib

Kelly @klthoreson · Oct 23, 2019

A2: we post a domestic abuse helpline in the bathrooms. Actually intervening can be a bit tricky though and I still don’t think I’ve got it right. If a couple is fighting in the library I will usually come over and say I heard yelling and wanted to check everyone is ok. #critlib
A3: I will state the obvious that any law enforcement personal will likely escalate any mental health situations in libraries. One advantage academic libraries might have in addressing these issue is a relationship with campus medical and disability services #critlib

twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck
Q3: How have disability & health issues (including symptoms, mental or physical health emergencies, perceived addiction or alcoholism, etc.) been criminalized in libraries where you have worked, and what is a health-based response that could have been used instead? #critlib

1 1:52 AM - Oct 23, 2019

See Nomen Reigns's other Tweets

kelly @klthoreson · Oct 23, 2019
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Jessica Dai @ralphratheriled
I saw one of these on the bathroom door today that I think a rogue person put up! Maybe they should be standard. They were fairly standard on the bathroom stalls of my last library. #critlib

6 1:53 AM - Oct 23, 2019

See Jessica Dai’s other Tweets
Lena Gluck @LenaGluck · Oct 23, 2019
Replying to @GinaMurrell1
This is a great suggestion. Thank you for the thoughtful answer.

Gina Murrell @GinaMurrell1
#critlib
A2. I haven't handled sex harassment effectively in the past (I was the person being harassed though) and the library had no plan in place at that time. Ideally staff would be aware of lib policy/plans and have opps to practice techniques before using them with patrons.

#critlib

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck · Oct 23, 2019

Anonymous option is on! I'll stay on a little while past the hour, and tomorrow I will definitely read through anything I haven't had the chance to tonight. Please feel free to continue contributing to any of the questions. The hour really does fly by! #critlib

twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

Violet Fox 🐱@violetbfox

AHHH #critlib I had neglected to turn the anonymous relay on! If anyone would like to tweet anonymously, the option is now open at critlib.org/anon. Sorry about that folks!
Happening now! Join us if you can - or tune in later. #critlib twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

Violet Fox 🐞 @violetbfox
#critlib chat on alternatives to policing in libraries will be starting soon! 9 pm Eastern, 8 pm Central, 7 pm Mountain, 6 pm Pacific. You're welcome to participate even if you haven't had a chance to review the suggested resources. Find all the questions: critlib.org/alternatives-t...

A4. To be totally blunt, nothing will ever make me feel totally safe, but having participated more in direct actions where I am req to deal with PD or counter protesters to keep protesters safe, I am a lot more confident in my ability to nav confrontational situations. #critlib twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Q4. In the event of white supremacists, anti-LGBT hate groups, or a mass shooter targeting your library, what would have to be the case for you to feel safe and prepared without relying on police? #critlib
Jessica Dai
@ralphratheriled

Same on all counts. I wish my library had a plan in place to support me. It was really challenging to go to work scared. My boss told me to alert campus security which I did. I'm not sure what I should have done/do now if it happened again. #critlib

Jessica Dai
@ralphratheriled

Replying to @LenaGluck

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kelly
@klthoreson

A3: we definitely kick people out for drinking in the library, and I have had to ask a woman to leave for yelling profanities to herself in the children’s area. I think the first scenario is tough to handle with a health based approach if you don’t know the person? #critlib /1 twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...
A3 cont: Maybe that's my upbringing coming out more than anything, but if somebody has a drinking problem are they really going to want to talk about it with me—a stranger without the training to have that conversation? Without a prior relationship that could be tough. #critlib

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck
Q3: How have disability & health issues (including symptoms, mental or physical health emergencies, perceived addiction or alcoholism, etc.) been criminalized in libraries where you have worked, and what is a health-based response that could have been used instead? #critlib

Anonymous critlib @critlib_anon
And your regular #critpitch reminder to see the #SaveSCSU_Library hashtag and go to unionlibraryworkers.blogspot.com/2019/09/guest-... for suggestions on how to exercise solidarity with St. Cloud State librarians being laid off. #critlib
Kate Crowe 🌿 @kcrowe · Oct 23, 2019

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twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck

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Lena Gluck
@LenaGluck

I appreciate your bluntness, and agree. I also feel more prepared after having participated in community organizing to keep folks safe in these situations. I would personally love to see libraries working with local community activists experienced in those threats. #critlib

Kate Crowe 🌿 @kcrowe · Oct 23, 2019

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kelly @klthoreson · Oct 23, 2019

A3 cont: though I guess maybe it is the same approach that I take to the latter situation, where I ask if she's okay and if there’s anyone I can call BEFORE asking her to leave. But, again, I know that patron as a regular. #critlib /3
If you are a gender conforming, able bodied, cis white person, it is yr JOB to intervene if you are in a position to (nope, not talking about trauma survivors). You hv an ability to de escalate that you may not know you have, just by virtue of the body you are in. #critlib

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Q4. In the event of white supremacists, anti-LGBT hate groups, or a mass shooter targeting your library, what would have to be the case for you to feel safe and prepared without relying on police? #critlib

A4 I think about that scenario more than I'd like. Growing up in punk / ska scenes, I'm unfortunately used to the presence of avowed racists & recognize their patterns quickly. Although I'm not sure it would solve things, that might be when I'd reach out to the police. #critlib
I had started to type this out and then pulled back - so thanks for saying this @kcrowe #critlib
twitter.com/kcrowe/status/…

Kate Crowe 🎈🍁💧@kcrowe
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twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat…

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck · Oct 23, 2019
Q4. In the event of white supremacists, anti-LGBT hate groups, or a mass shooter targeting your library, what would have to be the case for you to feel safe and prepared without relying on police? #critlib

Dr.EB @LNBel
A4 we have ALOT of faculty and students who are in law enforcement and legally carrying firearms. Most of us have taken active shooter training - its important to be trained what to do after the police arrive- we have a panic button at the reference & circulation desk #critlib

Jenna Freedman 🌈@zinelib
I have to sign off. Thanks @LenaGluck for moderating this chat and everyone for contributing. I appreciate learning with and from you. #critlib
Chelsea Misquith

@ChelseaMisquith

These are interesting perspectives. And a good example of actively using your white privilege to navigate interactions with police. Something that more folks should be engaging in #critlib

Lena Gluck

@LenaGluck

I appreciate your bluntness, and agree. I also feel more prepared after having participated in community organizing to keep folks safe in these situations. I would personally love to see libraries working with local community activists experienced in those threats. #critlib

Dr.EB

@LNBel

Take a bystander intervention training! I did it together with @mauraweb #critlib I also recommend safe spaces training - which I did at #OWS twitter.com/kcrowe/status/…

Kate Crowe 🌹🧕‍♀️

@kcrowe

Replying to @kcrowe

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Replying to @mauraweb
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Dr. Maura Smale
@mauraweb
Yes absolutely cosign, so so so useful to take a bystander/upstander intervention training. For NYC folx check out caeny.org in Brooklyn. #critlib

The Center for Anti-Violence Education
What We Do
caeny.org

Kelly @klthoreson
A3: I think Kate nailed it here. It’s PRACTICE. I don’t have the same community organizing exp, but I used to work for an organization that believed STRONGLY in the power of role playing. It’s cheesy training but I am more prepared to react. #critlib twitter.com/kcrowe/status/…

Kate Crowe ❄️☕️ @kcrowe
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Ryan Randall | Abolish & Prosecute ICE
@foureyedsoul

A5: I wasn't the one who started them, but I've been pleasantly surprised at the actions & conversations at my work about ways to maintain safety & boundaries without calling police. #critlib

Dr Maura Smale
@mauraweb

I also have to head out. Huge thanks to @LenaGluck for a terrific job moderating, and to everyone who participated, I appreciate learning from you (and will check back in tomorrow too). #critlib

Lena Gluck
@LenaGluck

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the #CritLib conversation tonight. I hope that we can continue these conversations in our workplaces and in the profession as a whole.

Dr.EB
@LNBel

As a bike rider, I am often encountering persons in crisis on the streets my #critlib pitch is to put LIFENET number into your phone contacts. Sometimes that's a better call than 911 if there isn't a medical emergency
A51 I wasn't there for this, but apparently one of my coworkers used her WW-demanding-the-manager voice to make it very clear to security that regardless of whether a sleeping patron was a student, the police would NOT be called on anyone for sleeping in our library. #critlib

Hey, #critlib! Children’s librarian on my last break before close so just lurking tonight. Thanks for sharing your experiences and some great resources, too!

A5.2 I'm not sure if that was exactly well received by security, but I do know that the police never were called. #critlib
Late to the #critlib party, but just want to add that you can always and SHOULD always ask what the police are doing in your library. Especially if you haven't called them, but you can also ask them what their plan is when you call.

Meg Hixon
@MegDaLibrarian

Currently grappling with this at my own library. Honestly, in the current climate, the only times I feel truly safe are when I'm not thinking about it.

I suppose it would help to really *know* that the community would come in and support us. #critlib
twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck
Q4. In the event of white supremacists, anti-LGBT hate groups, or a mass shooter targeting your library, what would have to be the case for you to feel safe and prepared without relying on police? #critlib
I think that I need to start the conversation in my own workplace by listening to the needs of our circulation librarians to find out what our security needs are before I start trying to solve a problem they already have handled #critlib twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck
Q5. If you have succeeded in starting conversations with coworkers, or supervisors about alternative means to maintain library safety and behavioral boundaries without calling police, how did you do it? What was well received and what wasn’t? #critlib

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the #CritLib conversation tonight. I hope that we can continue these conversations in our workplaces and in the profession as a whole.

Ryan Randall | Abolish & Prosecute ICE @foureyedsoul
Thank you so much for putting tonight's #critlib chat together & helping grow these conversations!

Nomen Reigns @CatalogingSteve
A4: There is no single tactic that a library can adopt to protect patrons from a mass shooter. Hate groups can made to feel extremely unwelcome if you disrupt their ability to communicate with each other, so yell at fascists and use a bullhorn to do so twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...
Thank you, @LenaGluck - I am feeling ready to start some conversations. Thanks for all the great resources #critlib - thanks for sharing everyone.

twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck
Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the #CritLib conversation tonight. I hope that we can continue these conversations in our workplaces and in the profession as a whole.

Jaena Rae @jaenarae
Catching up on #critlib. Really compelling questions about when/how to involve the police.

Tasha Nins @TashaCMN
Ooo also a reminder to #critlib #librarytwitter and #humans: meaning well ≠ doing well
Lena Gluck @LenaGluck

This is so real. I think librarianship needs to acknowledge that police presence literally functions as a barrier to access for anyone targeted by police. #CritLib

twitter.com/BishopNaomi/st...

NaoB @BishopNaomi
Replying to @LenaGluck

I had students email me and ask for help because they were too afraid to go to the library and ask for help. There had been police called on students and it was not addressed by the library so students didn't trust staff and avoided the library.

Kate Crowe @kcrowe

I appreciate the work these folks have done/do but would hesitate to call on them for this bc open carry is often a component of their ethos (which does vary). Training on de escalation and bystander intervention that incl trauma informed practice is where I wld start.

#critlib
This reminds me, however you feel about your local antif@ group(s) they often run sites that have far more information on hate groups and local actors in your area/region than exists anywhere else. #critlib
twitter.com/critlib_anon/s...

anonymous critlib @critlib_anon
A4 Partnering with a local John Brown Gun Club wouldn't hurt
#critlib

5 1:20 PM - Oct 23, 2019
See Kate Crowe’s other Tweets

kelly @klthoreson
A5: I know this convo is done but I didn’t have a response last night and have been thinking on it. While I haven’t had many successful convos about police presence in libs, the work of Ryan Dowd has been pretty influential on my library system...#critlib
twitter.com/LenaGluck/stat...

Lena Gluck @LenaGluck
Q5. If you have succeeded in starting conversations with coworkers, or supervisors about alternative means to maintain library safety and behavioral boundaries without calling police, how did you do it? What was well received and what wasn’t? #critlib

2 4:25 PM - Oct 23, 2019
See kelly's other Tweets
...in thinking about how to shift our perspectives on serving people experiencing poverty and homelessness towards more compassion and deescalation. A start—and I hope a gateway to talking about the same issues as they relate to race / racism in the lib. #critlib