

Advocacy by Design: Moving Between Theory & Practice



Purdom Lindblad

@Purdom_L

With credit to @jeremykboggs, @UMD_MITH, @UMD_AADHUM

Slides: <http://bit.ly/AbD2017>

(Advocacy by Design: Moving Between Theory & Practice, Keynote for 2017 University of Maryland Library's Library Research & Innovative Practice Forum, June 8, 2017)

Thank you for the kind introduction. Thank you to the Forum committee for organizing what promises to be a compelling day of sharing work and ideas (and for the brilliant way of making space via the Quiet Room!). Thank you, especially, to Rebecca Goldfinger for coordinating and organizing so efficiently.

Thanks to my collaborator, Jeremy Boggs, Head of Research & Development at the Scholars' Lab at the University of Virginia Library. And thanks to MITH staff, Neil Fraistat, Trevor Munoz, Grace Bubikiika, Stephanie Sapienza, Ed Summers, Raff Vigilanti, and Kirsten Kiester; as well as Catherine Knight Steele, Jovone Bickerstaff, Jessica Lu, and the entire team for African American Digital History and Culture Project for enriching conversations that continue to improve my thinking around Advocacy by Design and many other topics.

Thank you to the housekeeping staff, whose labor enables us to use such a beautiful space today. We see you and appreciate your work.

I want to recognize and honor the life of Richard Collins III, who was recently killed on our campus. Our efforts to name racism, to build an explicitly anti-racist, anti-violent environment on campus may be clumsy and difficult, but we must continue and improve in doing this work.

--

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

Influential Work

- Shaowen Bardzell, *Feminist HCI*
- Bess Sadler and Chris Bourg, *Feminist Interface Design and Discovery Interfaces*
- Moya Bailey, *#transform(ing)DH Writing and Research: An Autoethnography of Digital Humanities and Feminist Ethics*
- Hope Olsen, *The Power to Name*
- Stacie Williams, *Implications of Archival Labor*
- Anne Burdick, *Visible Language*
- Frank Chimero, *The Shape of Design*

This is an incomplete list of work influencing my thinking around Advocacy by Design. In addition to the incredible scholars listed on the slide, I have been sitting with a sentence written by the editors of the journal [Salvage](#), “The infrastructures against social misery have yet to be built.”

--

Editors, “Salvage Perspectives #4: Order Prevails in Washington” *Salvage* 4 (2017), accessed June 1, 2017, <http://salvage.zone/in-print/order-prevails-in-washington/>

What is Advocacy by Design?

In 2014, the disappearance and murder of University of Virginia undergraduate Hannah Graham, the Rolling Stone 'After a Rape' article, and the assault of African American student leader, Martese Johnson, by two Alcoholic Beverage Control agents led to the development of Advocacy by Design. The cries of 'how could this happen here?' and 'we had no idea!' were discordant with the long history of sexual and racial violence at UVa.

Together with Professor Lisa Goff, the Scholars' Lab team organized a digital archive to document this history at the university. Jeremy Boggs and I felt the archive must be feminist at the core, that feminist principles must be present at each stage—from collecting materials, to describing and organizing metadata, to the interface, to the ways in which the archive was shared. While we continued to work on Take Back the Archive, we felt this feminist mode of working could be extended to other projects.

Advocacy by Design articulates a shared understanding and practice that fronts questions of **how people are represented in, or are subjects of, academic work; questions of who reads and uses our work** as well as **those who collaborate and contribute to our work**. We articulate this advocacy through particular stances on a number of interrelated concepts, we call principles. Some principles are borrowed from Shaowen Bardzell's Feminist HCI: Taking Stock and Outlining an Agenda for Design, while others grew out of our experiences with Take Back the Archive.

These principles include within them components and elements, such as metadata, project management, and licenses, to better apply principles throughout a research

inquiry. Advocacy is active--an attention-based practice of asking what are we doing to foster diverse voices? What do these practices look like face-to-face? What do they look like in the things we design, build, share?

Bardzell, Shaowen, "Feminist HCI: Taking Stock and Outlining an Agenda for Design," *CHI 2010*, April 10-15, 2010, <http://wtf.tw/ref/bardzell.pdf>
Sadler, Bess and Chris Bourg, "Feminism and the Future of Library Discovery," *Code4Lib*, Issue 28, April 15, 2015, <http://journal.code4lib.org/articles/10425>

Why and How

“The relationship between form and purpose — How and Why — is symbiotic. **But despite this link, Why is usually neglected, because How is more easily framed.** It is easier to recognize failures of technique than those of strategy or purpose, and simpler to ask “How do I paint this tree?” than to answer “Why does this painting need a tree in it?” **The How question is about a task, while the Why question regards the objective of the work.** If an artist or designer understands the objective, he can move in the right direction, even if there are missteps along the way.”

The Shape of Design

Frank Chimero, @frank_chimero

Advocacy by Design begins with defining, seeking ‘the why’ and using that why as a guide through the research area. Defining the why enables us to identify which hows are critical. In the beginning stages of a research project or formation of a library committee, task force, or service, the hows should be platform agnostic. For example, centering the why opens up not just what the goals of a particular service or committee will be, but why those goals are important? In turn, the why drives how that service or committee will work, how it will be legible to patrons or library colleagues.

As Chimero points out it is easier to ask How do I paint this tree (or in our case how do we organize a new committee) than to articulate why this committee needs to be. Defining the why clarifies the objectives of our work, something we can return to when the tasks pile up. For Advocacy by Design, the ‘why’ frames which principles should be fronted and how those principles can be enacted.

--

Chimero, Frank, *The Shape of Design*, 2012, <https://shapeofdesignbook.com/>

...libraries have never been neutral repositories of knowledge. Research libraries in particular have always reflected the inequalities, biases, ethnocentrism, and power imbalances that exist throughout the academic enterprise through collection policies and hiring practices that reflect the biases of those in power at a given institution. In addition, theoretically neutral library activities like cataloging have often re-created societal patterns of exclusion and inequality.

Feminism and the Future of Library Discovery

Bess Sadler, @eosadler; Chris Bourg, @mchris4duke

I lean on Bess Sadler and Chris Bourg's *Feminism and the Future of Library Discovery*:

“ Research libraries in particular have always reflected the inequalities, biases, ethnocentrism, and power imbalances that exist throughout the academic enterprise through collection policies and hiring practices that reflect the biases of those in power at a given institution.”

My 'why' is grounded in identifying and revealing practices that reinforce patterns of exclusion and inequality, the "how" flows from this beginning.

--

Sadler, Bess and Chris Bourg, "Feminism and the Future of Library Discovery," *Code4Lib*, Issue 28, April 15, 2015, <http://journal.code4lib.org/articles/10425>

Principles for Advocacy By Design

- Transparency
- Openness
- Stewardship
- Temporality
- Trust-building / Ethic of Care
- Accessibility and Usability
- Poly-vocalism
- Sustainability
- Interoperability
- Collaboration

Advocacy by Design is not proscriptive, not a checklist, rather a way of practicing that invites return and reflection upon the why and how along with attention to the questions of **who is represented in-and are subjects of-archives and academic work**; **questions of who reads and uses our work** as well as **those who collaborate and contribute to our work**.

Principles for Advocacy by Design are included on the slide. Today I would like to focus on Transparency, Poly-vocalism, and Collaboration ending with some reflection on the Ethic of Care. As you will see, the principles are interconnected and elements move across them. It is not meant to draw strict boundaries, rather to develop a vocabulary to frame our discussion.

Elements

- Documentation
- Open Code
- Aesthetics
- Information Design
- Project Management
- Open Data and Metadata
- Clear Licensing
- Community and User Support
- Open Workflows

...among others.

Elements are ways to make visible the principles of Advocacy by Design within our workflows, interactions, and research products. What follows are example projects to tease out how different elements could work to enact specific principles.



This is a prototype interface for Take Back the Archive which aims for transparency and temporality.

The timeline is one way of showing stories persist over time. We are working to improve the timeline, but for now, the lines above the dots (which are sized according to how many materials are in the collection) indicate how these stories reappear over time. We want to visualize how these stories drop out of conversations or how often they are referenced.

This interface experiments with Rich Prospect Browsing as outlined in [Visual Interface Design for Digital Cultural Heritage](#). We used Rich Prospect Browsing as an element of transparency and poly-vocalism to show the extent of the collected materials for the archive, as well as a quick way of identifying the type of content. In this case, materials were designated as advocacy materials, policy reports, and journalistic accounts. Rich Prospect Browsing offers options for representing the full scope of materials with the goal of empowering users to understand the varied paths through the archival materials, that there is not one story, but many represented within. A major challenge to transparency is the ability to visualize absence--we know that many people do not report, particularly men and people from the LGBT community, so their stories do not appear in the archive. Can we better represent absence of materials to signal that this archive is incomplete or not fully representational?

Showing every item within the collection additionally resists embedding assumptions of rank and relevance in search algorithms, namely that the most commonly asserted

statements must be true. Sadler and Bourg point out that ‘search algorithms represent a single majority-rules point of view, masquerading as neutrality; which does not render visible how the system has been designed for an “ideal user.” Further, the documentation and research determining the characteristics of that ideal user are not shared with others.

I lean on Safiya Noble’s work on Biased Data which explores the ways search algorithms reflect racism. She writes “when we talk about these kinds of racist experiences and pointers that happen in technical systems, we also hear in the public discourse these things talked about, again, as anomalies, as glitches, rather than helping us understand and unveil the ways that programmers are people who write, and code is a language. And all languages are value-laden, including binary code languages.”

--

Stan Ruecker, Milena Radzikowska, and Stefan Sinclair, *Visual Interface Design for Cultural Heritage: A Guide to Rich Prospect Browsing*, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2011.

Safiya Noble, “Biased Data: a Panel Discussion on Intersectionality and Internet Ethics, 2016, accessed on June 1, 2017,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2d2I_ZSN1U

when we talk about these kinds of racist experiences and pointers that happen in technical systems, we also hear in the public discourse these things talked about, again, as anomalies, as glitches, rather than helping us understand and unveil the ways that programmers are people who write, and code is a language. And all languages are value-laden, including binary code languages

Safiya Noble, [Biased Data](#), @safiyanoble

Nobel writes "when we talk about these kinds of racist experiences and pointers that happen in technical systems, we also hear in the public discourse these things talked about, again, as anomalies, as glitches, rather than helping us understand and unveil the ways that programmers are people who write, and code is a language. And all languages are value-laden, including binary code languages."

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES

AN INVITATION TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES

¶ 1 Welcome to a conversation on designing best practices for digital humanities praxis committed to social justice. We are glad that you are here. 0

¶ 2 The living document on this site, “Creative and Critical Precepts for Digital Humanities Projects,” emerged from the [De/Post/Colonial Digital Humanities](#) course at [HILT 2015](#). The course originated when Jennifer Guiliano and Trevor Muñoz invited [Roopika Risam](#) to teach a course on postcolonial approaches to the digital humanities for HILT. Roopika requested [micha](#)

COMMENTS ACTIVITY

2 COMMENTS ON THE WHOLE PAGE

0 COMMENTS ON PARAGRAPH 1

0 COMMENTS ON PARAGRAPH 2

0 COMMENTS ON PARAGRAPH 3

1 COMMENT ON PARAGRAPH 4

0 COMMENTS ON PARAGRAPH 5

0 COMMENTS ON PARAGRAPH 6

0 COMMENTS ON PARAGRAPH 7

0 COMMENTS ON PARAGRAPH 8

NAVIGATE CONTENT DISCUSS

[Social Justice and the Digital Humanities](#), Roopika Risam, @roopikarisam

For the De/Post/Colonial Digital Humanities course at HILT 2015, Roopika Risam and Micha Cardenas collaborated with participants to develop a resource for designing digital humanities research with demonstrated commitments to social justice. 11 participants shared their work publically with an explicit invitation for others to contribute prompts and resources around **access, material conditions, methods, ontologies and epistemologies** that shape digital humanities. In their words, “The goal here is to make visible the critical and theoretical processes that subtend digital humanities practices.”

The site contains prompts, such as “How accessible is the project for people with disabilities?” “How accessible is the project in low-bandwidth environments?” “Which archives does the project use?” and “Whose voices are absent from these archives?” alongside links to practitioners and resources engaged with the issues around a particular prompt.

Users are able to comment at sentence, paragraph, or section level, extending a conversation about practice beyond the local and temporally located working group. The goal here is not to stagnate or stall a project, rather to slow down and reflect upon the ethical choices needed in the creation of digital work. The goal is to break these choices down to manageable, addressable parts. As Amy Wickner observed, **Ethical tensions are addressable. While ethical considerations need to be at the center of our work, they need not prohibit this work from progressing.**

Roopika Risam and Micah Cardenas, *Social Justice and the Digital Humanities*, 2015, accessed June 1, 2017, <http://criticaldh.roopikarisam.com/>

Search ...

FIND BY NAME...

Select Category

RECENT POSTS

SOURCE: [Holy Trinity Church death records, 1818-1867 | Georgetown Slavery Archive](#)

BLOGROLL: [In Search of the Slave Who Defied George Washington - @NYTimes](#)

NEWS/BLOGROLL: [Williams: By any name, half-acre of slave trade history not enough | Richmond.com](#)

ARCHIVES

Select Month

RSS

CLICK FOR INFORMATION ON:

#adphd abolition academia african american african continent african diaspora archive art article articles blogroll book books brazil caribbean civil war conference digital digital history digital humanities edited emancipation essay europe featured featuring film free people of color gender history interview latin america literature marronage memory news politics primary source public history race resistance resources scholarship sexuality slavery slave trade united states video violence women

FOLLOW BLOG VIA EMAIL

Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER

[My Tweets](#)

CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE

African Diaspora, Ph.D. by Jessica Marie Johnson is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#).

[#AfricanDiasporaPhD](#), [@afrxdiasporaphd](#), [@jmjafx](#)

African Diaspora PhD, led by Jessica Marie Johnson, Kidada Williams, and Ana-Lucia Araujo--uses tagging and clear licensing information as well as multiple entry points into content, as examples of elements of the principle of transparency. The team page does a great job of showcasing who is contributing to the various pieces of the project, highlighting shared credit as an element of collaboration.

Collaboration here, as in the next example, Documenting the Now, can be very useful when thinking about the library. **What does collaboration look like and mean within the library?** Particularly for liaison librarians, but also for all throughout the library, we can include a Collaborator's Bill of Rights or other documents to make visible our expectations, skills, and constraints when we collaborate. Making shared credit something actionable for our work.

Jessica Marie Johnson, Kidada Williams, and Ana-Lucia Araujo, *African Diaspora PhD*, accessed June 1, 2017, <https://africandiasporaphd.com/>

DocNow

DocNow is a tool and a community developed around supporting the ethical collection, use, and preservation of social media content.

Tools

In addition to developing the DocNow app, the DocNow team has built a variety of tools to help researchers work with Twitter data. Some of these tools require some technical proficiency to get running, so please reach out to us if you are interested in using them but not sure where to start.



Hydrator

Rehydrate your Tweet ID sets into full tweets with metadata.



Tweet Catalog

A catalog of publicly shared Tweet ID sets. Add yours here!



Twarc

Archive Twitter JSON using this command line tool.



Diff Engine

Track changes in news articles through their RSS feeds.



Sign up for occasional emails.



Follow us on Twitter to get regular updates.



Read and respond to articles on Medium.



Join the social media archiving conversation on Slack.



Participate in our opensource project on GitHub.

Documenting the Now, @documentnow; Christina Harlow, @cm_harlow; Ed Summers, @edsu

Documenting the Now does a fantastic job at communicating technical infrastructure and project decisions through a variety of platforms, from newsletters to a Slack Channel to GitHub, all elements of transparency.

Further, Documenting the Now builds tools alongside the community of activists, scholars, researchers, and interested public so users are able to manage their own data and representation. Christina Harlow points to DocNow as a model for library and information professionals in opening our work of selecting, curating, and managing data and tools to the very users who are best positioned to shape and improve these practices.

Collecting in collaboration with communities is slower, more complicated, yet this practice can support our reflection on biases inherent within traditional collecting policies, particularly who decides what is valuable, worth of collecting and preserving and therefore status, funding, and place within the archive. *It also means we must address what collaboration looks like and mean within the library, particularly attention to what power structures are inherent and tacit within collaborations?* Ed Summers, co-PI of Doc Now, indicates that collaboration can be a source of tension-but this tension is vital because the project has a responsibility to work with communities to insure people are authentically represented, **or not**, within the archive.

Document the Now, accessed June 1, 2017, <http://www.docnow.io/>

If my work and aims are not in collaboration with the communities I wish to talk with, then I'm not doing the right work. Transparency is essential for creating the kind of research that is of most use to these communities—the communities that are so graciously letting me and other scholars into their lives.

[#transform\(ing\)Dh Writing and Research: An Autoethnography of Digital Humanities and Feminist Ethics](#)

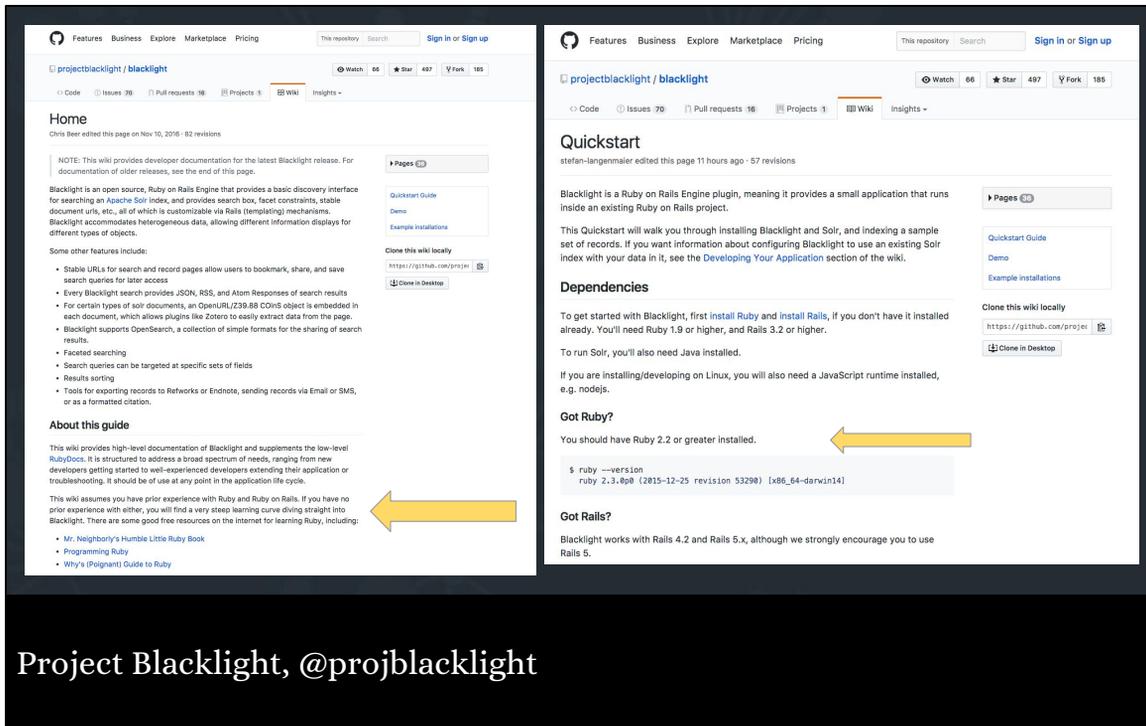
Moya Bailey, @moyazb

I return to Moya Bailey's article, *#transform(ing)DH Writing and Research, An Autoethnography of Digital Humanities and Feminist Ethics*, quote "If my work and aims are not in collaboration with the communities I wish to talk with, then I'm not doing the right work. Transparency is essential for creating the kind of research that is of most use to these communities—the communities that are so graciously letting me and other scholars into their lives."

With community collaborations, can we create and describe collections that show, offer modes of manipulation, and resist a single explanation or narrative? It is incredibly important to make visible the decisions that are made, from selection to description to discovery. These decisions are interpretive and can reinscribe erasure and exclusion, particularly when materials are gathered from those whose own cultural documentational methods are not considered valid or valuable to the institution.

--

Moya Bailey, *#transform(ing)DH Writing and Research, An Autoethnography of Digital Humanities and Feminist Ethics*, *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, Vol 9, No 2, 2015 <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/9/2/000209/000209.html>



Project Blacklight, @projblacklight

One example of documentation as an element of transparency and collaboration is Project Blacklight, an open source, front-end, discovery interface for Apache Solr. Blacklight is now a part of [Project Hydra](#), a collaboration to help institutions around the world preserve, maintain and give access to their knowledge repositories and assets.

The quickstart guide provides clear indication of the dependencies, which is great but the more exciting documentation is the Wiki. It is written in an welcoming tone with clear expectations of skillsets. Yet, if someone is interested but not experienced with Ruby there are links to resources and guides. The intention is not to reduce documentation to meet all skill-levels, but to point people towards clear avenues to best use Blacklight.

Returning to Bardzell, who asks us to attend to the broadest context of stakeholders. Within the context of library platforms and systems, **could we be transparent to our communities about who is building software and in what environment, what skills are expected to best utilize these platforms and systems, and where one could acquire such skills.**

Sharing documentation and access to library platforms offer doorways for users to see the most recent version, empowers people to pull the code, change it, contribute back. Can we imagine library documentation that is

welcoming, simple to read, that communicates how the system or platform works? Why it was decided upon? **Who contributed to it?** And how users may fork it, change it, contribute back to it? As well as indicate to users the labor involved in creating the system and subsequent documentation?

--

“Project Blacklight”, accessed June 1, 2017

<https://github.com/projectblacklight/blacklight/wiki#support> and

<https://github.com/projectblacklight/blacklight/wiki/Quickstart>

”We need to make space for our diverse colleagues to thrive within the profession. **In short, we need to dismantle whiteness from within LIS.** We can best do that in two equally important ways: by modifying our diversity programs to attract truly diverse applicants and by mentoring early career librarians in both playing at and dismantling whiteness in LIS.”

April Hathcock, @AprilHathcock, #critlib, #transformDH

Particularly within the question of who contributes to the development of library software, but also extending to who makes up library committees, collaborates with students, performs outreach to campus and communities?-these questions are inherently questions of staffing, labor, and library policies.

It is time-consuming and difficult to be transparent in why and how our policies come about; it means taking down and reimagining our hiring and retention practices. As April Hathcock wrote in her 2015 article *White Librarianship in Blackface: Diversity Initiatives in LIS*:

”We need to make space for our diverse colleagues to thrive within the profession. In short, we need to dismantle whiteness from within LIS. We can best do that in two equally important ways: by modifying our diversity programs to attract truly diverse applicants and by mentoring early career librarians in both playing at and dismantling whiteness in LIS.”

She continues, ‘when we recruit for whiteness, we will get whiteness; but when we recruit for diversity, we will truly achieve diversity.’ We can, with attention to our hiring and retention practices, make space for more black, brown, trans, and queer bodies to contribute to library software, library committees, and outreach efforts.

This making space is difficult--it takes time, money, effort to examine and dismantle existing practices and to imagine then build new, more equitable and

just ones.

--

April Hathcock, White Librarianship in Blackface: Diversity Initiatives in LIS, *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*, October 2015,

<http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2015/lis-diversity/>

The ethics of care starts from the premise that as humans we are inherently relational, responsive beings and the human condition is one of connectedness or interdependence. As an ethic grounded in voice and relationships, in the importance of everyone having a voice, being listened to carefully (in their own right and on their own terms) and heard with respect. An ethics of care directs our attention to the need for responsiveness in relationships (paying attention, listening, responding) and to the costs of losing connection with oneself or with others. (2011, interview)

Ethic of Care, Carol Gilligan

Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene, Cthlulucene: Making Kin,
Donna Haraway

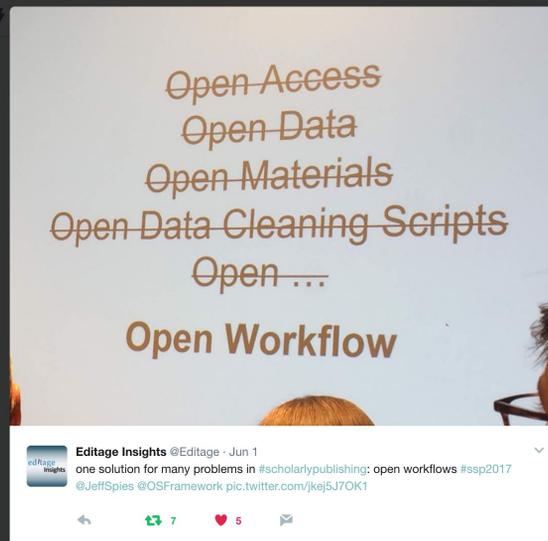
Making space, for me, means returning to the Carol Gilligan's Ethic of Care. Gilligan's argument that the human condition is one of connectedness, one of interdependence echo's Donna Haraway's call for us to recognize and honor the interconnections among people, plants, animals, and the planet in an effort to create, foster, and defend places of refuge.

For Gilligan, a feminist ethic of care is an ethic of resistance to the injustices inherent in patriarchy (**meaning the association of care and caring with women rather than with humans, the feminizing of care work, as well as the rendering of care as less important, though linked with, justice**). The Library is a space where this resistance and radical care work can be, and is currently, practiced.

--

Carol Gilligan, "Ethics of Care Interview," *Ethics of Care*, June 21 2011,
<http://ethicsofcare.org/carol-gilligan/>

Donna Haraway, "Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene, Cthlulucene,"
Environmental Humanities, Vol. 6, 2015,
<http://environmentalhumanities.org/arch/vol6/6.7.pdf>



Open Workflows

Interconnectedness is a major tenant of the Ethic of Care described by Gilligan. Within the library, the processes of what collections we buy, which collaborations we lend time to, are interconnected to issues of funding, user stats, time allocations, and a myriad of other concerns. Much of the negotiations and decisions are obscured from other departments and our patrons. One way to challenge this is to create and share open workflows.

Open Workflows, more than open data and open access (**both of which are important**), give scope to protocols, tools, practices, and rationales. Practicing transparency can create deeper understanding of the very real constraints libraries are working within. For example, and I think the statute of limitations has run out now...hopefully... in one of my former positions, I had a patron upset because a very expensive resource was being canceled. I sat down with this patron, walked them through the committee's decision process. I did all the things I was not supposed to do- I shared the general the budget, shared the cost of the canceled resource (It costs about x thousand dollars per year, we have about 3 people using it), and then we worked together to identify the specifics of what they needed in order to find that information in a different database.

Open Workflows clarify the constraints an institution is working within, can detail who is responsible for making decisions, what information goes into those decisions, helps us say no to projects that are beyond the scope of the work we do (hopefully with pointers to who else on campus or within the community does accommodate that work). Moreover, openness means others can reuse it, expand it, fix it. Openness

further gives us a platform to talk about the costs and effort of service.

HOME OUR WORK RESOURCES PRESS DONATE CONTACT



Library Freedom Project

PRIVACY TOOLKIT FOR LIBRARIANS

Last updated on 26 May 2017. For current slidedeck, please contact us.

<https://libraryfreedomproject.org/>

In libraries, care on par with justice, includes educating ourselves and our collaborators (including students, community members, staff, and faculty) about privacy online. Library Freedom Project is a partnership among librarians, technologists, attorneys, and privacy advocates which aims to address the problems of surveillance by making real the promise of intellectual freedom in libraries. Their focus is teaching librarians about surveillance threats, privacy rights and responsibilities, and digital tools to stop surveillance, with the hope to create a privacy-centric paradigm shift in libraries and the communities they serve.

The Library Freedom Project, responding to increased surveillance online, has a Privacy Toolkit for Librarians, makes clear its funders and funding model, as well as a wide-range of resources for learning and advocating for privacy online.

--

“The Library Freedom Project” accessed June 1, 2017,
<https://libraryfreedomproject.org/>

...The technical capabilities of law enforcement and intelligence agencies are rapidly expanding, and even the best attempts at law reform can't keep up with these new powers. **Over and over again, we've seen these capabilities used against protected free speech activities, especially against the speech of marginalized people.**

Compounding the problem of government surveillance is that of corporate surveillance; we rely on a small handful of data-driven private companies for all of our computing needs, and many of these services are "free" because we are the product.

The mission of The Library Freedom Project is one way to enact of the Ethic of Care. Specifically, we teach others to use digital resources, teach digital literacies, but we do not make clear what data is collected or by whom or for what purposes when people use library services or through general internet use.

Could we include digital privacy workshops within the rich range of existing [Teaching & Learning workshops](#) or as a quick-start guide alongside managing data and resources within the excellent Research Commons services? How can we make transparent our own efforts to better understand governmental and corporate data gathering from our vendor services? What collaborators would we need to identify to build relationships across campus? How can we identify our own risks and communicate those out to our colleagues within the library and beyond?

Endangered Data Week



APRIL 17-21 2017

Endangered Data Week, #EndangeredData, #EndangeredDataWeek
UMD organizers : Joseph Koivisto @Joseph_Koivisto, Kate Dohe @katedohe,
David Durden, Adam Kriesberg @adamkriesberg, Trevor Muñoz @trevormunoz,
Kelley O'Neal @KelleyOneal, Josh Westgard @westgardja,
Amy Wickner, and Purdom Lindblad @Purdom_L

One approach to such questions is to center the library as a base for grassroots activism--around digital privacy as well as endangered data. The Library is a vibrant center of intellectual life and is situated at a crossroads of campus. Positioned in this way, grassroots efforts, like those of Endangered Data Week, can activate the broad networks of collaborators spread across campus.

In the case of UMD's Endangered Data Week, representatives from the Library, iSchool, and MITH organized an interdisciplinary panel on the complex topic of endangered data, a hands-on workshop for personal data archiving best practices, as well as hosted a webinar. These events were held in conjunction with international Endangered Data Week which is dedicated to highlighting threats to data security and preservation.

The collaboration was one of distributed labor, various members of the organizing team taking a lead on a portion of the weeks events. It relied on email and shared google docs to keep communication flowing. And importantly, this kind of collaboration can serve as a model for other grassroots efforts of interest to the Library and the Library's communities.

The image shows a video player interface. On the left, there is a white sidebar menu with the following items: 'rachel devorah', 'about', 'works' (with sub-items 'revontulet', 'overmorrow', and 'belle isle / poem on the radio'), 'performances and installations', 'on-going collaborations', and 'writings'. The main video area is black with the word 'JANUARY' in white serif font. Below the video is a progress bar showing '00:00 / 12:59' and standard playback controls. At the bottom, there is a small caption: 'overmorrow: no attack in progress (2016) was performed by the Dunkelmann/Lopez Duo of the William Winant Percussion Group at Mills College on February 6, 2016. The video was projected onto a large screen approximately 12 feet by 24 feet hanging above the stage. The hall was again dimmed with spotlights on the players.'

**Making Noise Events: Overmorrow by Rachel Devorah, @racheldtrapp
CrunkFeminist Collective, @crunkfeminists**

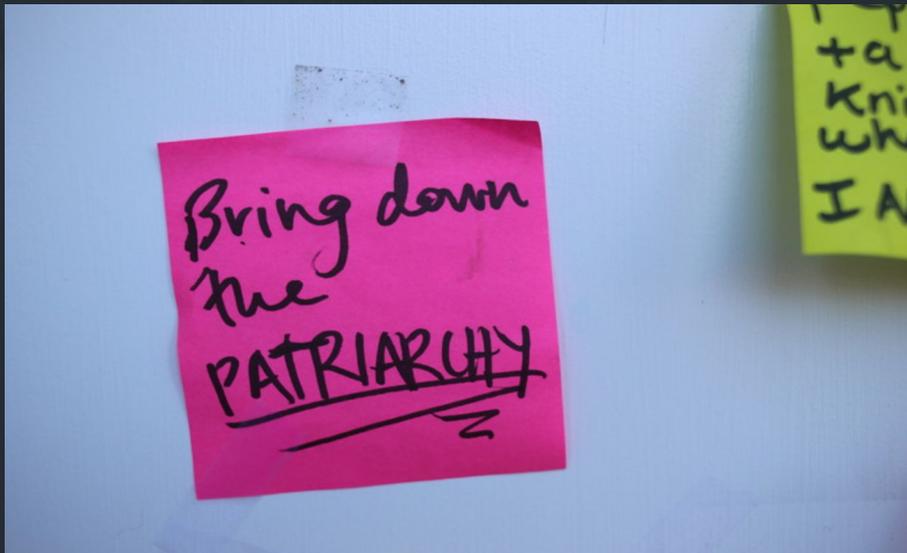
A final example of Libraries enacting the Ethic of Care is UVa's Making Noise Series hosting Overmorrow by Rachel Devorah Wood Rome, which is a sonification of gun violence in the United States. Making Noise hosted both a performance of the sonification and a discussion afterwards. The library became a space to talk about gun violence in the United States, specifically police violence against black bodies, as well as a space to reflect upon whiteness, the pitfalls of empathy in sonifying violence predominantly against black people, the role and responsibilities of white researchers engaged in anti-racist work, specifically when that anti-racist work is about violence and death. These are not easy conversations. Rachel Trapp has written about the evolution of Overmorrow and the work still to be done in order not to reinscribe violence with her work.

Libraries can be a space to elevate conversations of our interconnectedness. Taking the lead from The Crunk Feminist Collective, the library can create space of support and camaraderie by building community through fellowships, debates, challenges, and support of each other as struggle together.

--

Rachel Devorah Wood Rome, *Overmorrow*, 2016, accessed June 1, 2017, <http://racheldevorah.studio/works/overmorrow/>

Making Noise in the Music Library, accessed June 1, 2017, <http://guides.lib.virginia.edu/music/makingnoise>



As I mentioned in the beginning, the editors of the journal [Salvage](#), wrote “The infrastructures against social misery have yet to be built.” Applying Gilligan’s ethic of care, engaging with the principles and elements of Advocacy by Design, Libraries, specifically, our library, can begin the speculative work of sketching out and practicing what those infrastructures against social misery look like. Much of this work is not speculative; As Bess Sadler and Chris Bourg assert:

The means of production for the archives of humanity are up for grabs, and within our reach is the possibility of new production methods that resist the recreation of existing patterns of exclusion and marginalization.

We can put concerns about people at the center of everything we do, inviting our patrons to be collaborators

We can work to build a vocabulary of advocacy,

We can strive to be transparent in our decision making and policies, about what service means

We can transform our hiring and retention practices

We can include codes of conduct for our conferences, communication channels, and projects.

We can use library space to foster grassroots organizing around issues like privacy and endangered data

We can use library space to talk about our anti-racist and anti-violence commitments, collaborations, and research

These are foundations to do the speculative work together, in a critically engaged way, and with an approach that is conscious of the effects of our decisions.

Thank you and Happy Pride!

--

Image from Take Back the Archive collection.