#radlibcamp

RLC

Radical Library
Camp

Bradford
28·9·13

@ijclark Absolutely awesome day. Buzzing, excited,
motivated, inspired, thanks to everyone who made
it happen

#radlibcamp

Zine compiled by Jess Haigh

Disclaimer

I have probably missed out important things / sessions / stuff that was said. All errors are my own, and I am sorry for them. This in no way represents everything that happened at RLC, or the views of any of the organizers or participants. This is a collection of memories and feels, and should not be read as a statement of intent or a guide to practice.

A very rough bibliography is included at the back but if I have missed anyone, I am sorry.
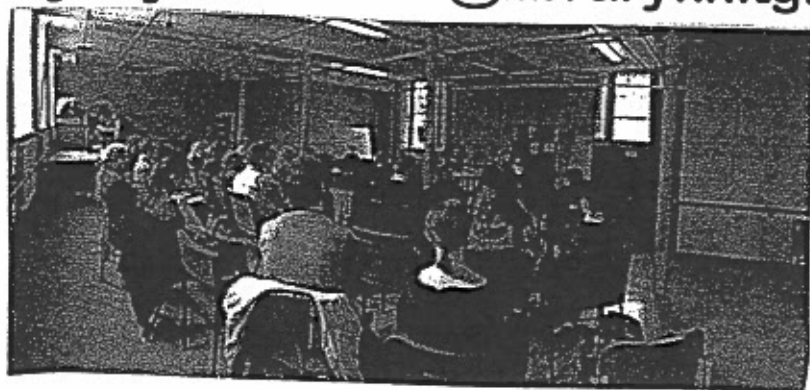
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Library Space Design

Bryony Ramsden @libraryknitgirl

The perfect library....
would it have a desk?
comfortable spaces, comfy enough to sleep in?
empowering sofas?
would it be bright and light?
would it come with a Bibliobus/Book Bike?

These were all talking points during the session. Some of the ideas that came out included getting rid of the desks, as they create conflict and empose power. Librarians should be where the users are, and library schools should be teaching learning theories supporting this.

Library design is currently focussed around trying to please everyone, all the diverse users, with the actual result of not pleasing anyone.

A full consultation process with both users and librarians would allow the users to lead the use.

Critical Information Literacy & Social Media Awareness

Lauren Smith @walkyouhome

Our professional body code of ethics surrounding hate speech, information literacy and censorship is limited. More is needed to connect theory and evidence.

In practice, librarians often create exercises for students to connect more with ethical issues and promote ethical issues within the library-but need to do more to educate about information sources being politicised or biased.

Cyber power is controlled through media and now entering reality. Online is now the same as real life. Leaving a child alone on the Internet is the same as leaving them in a public place. Librarians need their presence online to show good examples & deliver social media literacy sessions, as well as information literacy that demonstrates the changing world, and how information online can be biased.
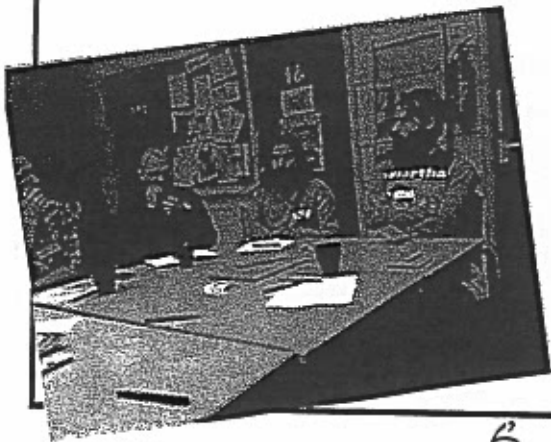
Neoliberal Working Cultures in Libraries

Simon Barron @simonxix

1. People don't seem to have faith in the public sector to provide good service
2. Therefore, there has been a tendency to try to make public sector services more like private sector services-the adaption of "neoliberal" policies
3. This can have disastrous results...the example in the session was the British Library

The very nature and role of libraries means that they are diametrically opposed to this kind of working culture. As librarians, it is our duty to oppose these practices.

Crisitunity in Public Libraries

Dan Grace @danpgrace

Whilst volunteers can offer some basics and potentially aid the continued existence of public libraries, they can't be relied on as a long term solution.

What makes the current trend of cuts to public library services more disconcerting is the removal of a community space which provides intellectual support and facilities for meetings, as well as advice on all sorts of matters...

@RadicalLibCamp "we're too scared of telling suppliers their product is s**t"

BDSM and Libraries
Liz Chapman @lgbtlibrarian

50 Shades of (endless) Grey has led to the issue of BDSM being in the public eye, but it is a fiction book, not a sex manual!

50 Shades demonstrates an abusive relationship for both parties. With online sex and violence prevalent, libraries need to adjust the balance, providing safe, supporting advice on sex & relationships.

Some libraries have written the telephone number for victim support groups inside 50 Shades and its ilk to try to empower and support peoples not in these relationships by choice.

Libraries also should provide resources for those wanting to explore their sexuality in a safe, consensual and empowering manner.

Ideas suggested included stocking up of Ebooks of 'embarrassing' titles, providing reading suggestion lists and spaces where people can browse privately. Librarians can also ask for resource lists from sexual health charities and groups.

Management and Leadership in Libraries
Andrew Preater @preater

How Not To Sell Out

- Ensure there is a congruency between your essential values and your job
- Have a line you will not cross
- Do not cross it
- Remember fairness and good management aren't about being liked
- Leave a place of work is you have not happy with the working culture (and you can!), but you need courage and support to do this!

LGBTQ in Libraries

Liz Chapman @lgbtlibrarian

Although public and school libraries are fairly positive about supporting the LGBTQ community, in reality they often fall short.

On one hand, it is important for material to be visible so that LGBTQ people know it's there. On the other, stigma still attached to queer sexualities means that at best people may feel uncomfortable about approaching a separate 'section' and at worst may face actual physical violence for doing so.

A suggested approach is to promote visibility through displays and posters, and discoverability through reading lists and the catalogue, but keep collections integrated.

Librarians and publishers need to work together to make sure that there is more good quality fiction and non-fiction material to support all groups in LGBTQ communities.
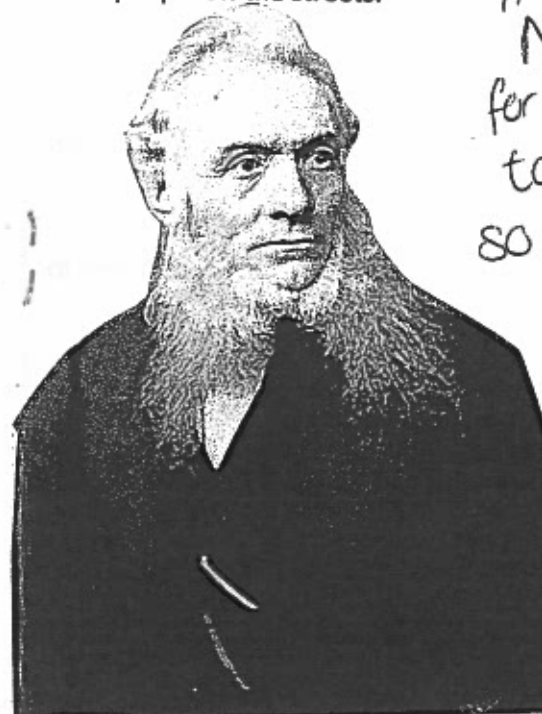
Radical librarians and archives are creating a record of LGBTQ history, which has traditionally been obscured and marginalised. Anything digitised and put online should though have an option for people to identify themselves and request for the image/document to be taken down.

History of Public Libraries

Sara Wingate Gray @librarian @sarawingategray

Edward Edwards was the man behind the 1850 Public Libraries act, which allowed local boroughs the power to establish free public libraries. He was self taught from a reader's ticket for the British Museum Library. He wrote several pamplets on how libraries needed longer opening hours & more open membership. He mounted a business case for why the UK needed public libraries.

Those at the top saw public libraries as a way of essentially keeping people off the streets.

'Now is the time for the working man to have access, so he can perform his wants'

Edwards is paraphrased as saying...

Copyright is broken so why am I enforcing it?

@lawsonstu

Is there right/wrong copyright?

Creative Commons might be a start-but isn't perfect and not yet well known or used.

IFLA is currently campaigning for a change in copyright law for education & libraries, working with the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

Music, invention and art deserves support, but this is exactly what the Internet rides roughshod over.

CILIP cannot advocate law-breaking, or work with unions, and a forced compliance of unworkable laws is not helpful.

Supporting lobbying efforts of bodies such as IFLA is an important step to change.

Libraries as Monocultures

Penny Andrew @pennyb

In our sector we employ majority white, middle class people. Disabled librarians are not represented within professional bodies. Funding is class ruled and working class entrants to the profession are put off by qualifications leading to huge debt.

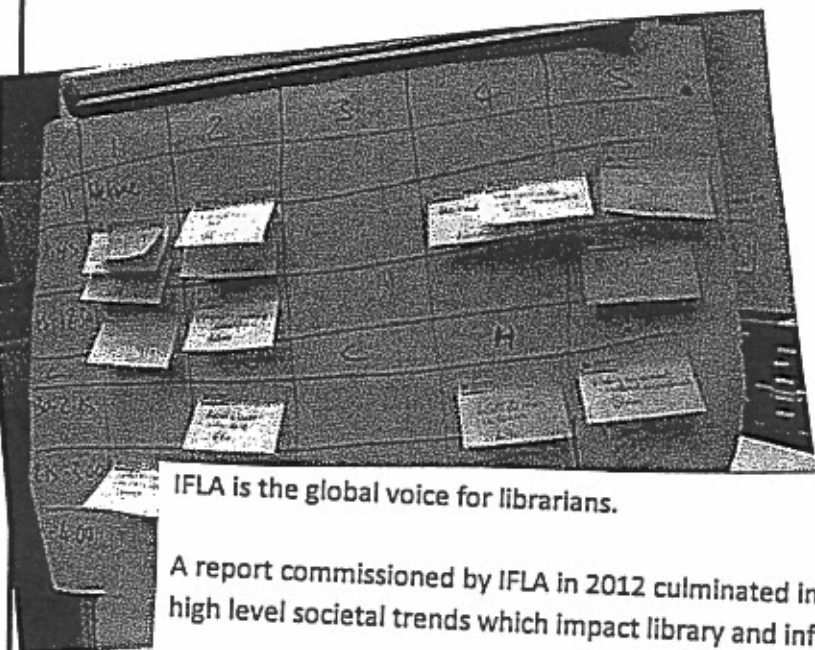So what is the monoculture going to do to stop being so?

When our business is education, why is it led by an own-funded professional qualification?

Recruitment needs to change to not put people off with disabilities. Library managers should change job descriptions if they could be off putting-if a job doesn't actually require manual handling/using the phone, don't put it in a job description.

@pennyb implementation and getting it right. The idea may be fine, but you have to take a person-a well as service-centric approach

International Perspectives on Radical Librarianship

Maria Cotera

IFLA is the global voice for librarians.

A report commissioned by IFLA in 2012 culminated in identification of five high level societal trends which impact library and information world.

1. New technologies will both expand & limit who has access to information
2. Online education will democratise & disrupt global learning
3. The boundaries of privacy & data protection will be redefined
4. Hyper-connected societies will listen to and empower new voices and groups
5. The global information economy will be transformed by new technologies

Supporting Information Needs of Activists

Jen Fox @jenatthelibrary

Reliable statistics, legal information and research about companies are just a few of the reasons that activists need good information skills, and good access to e-resources.

It is however hard to fully support groups you belong to with librarian skills because research takes such a long time. Especially if you are juggling with a full time job/other commitments.

One of the suggestions is radical information literacy training. Mirroring the librarian's role in other sectors, the aim here is not to answer reference enquiries, but to teach people how to find information for themselves. An example of this could be a training session on how to research companies using free information sources.

Small steps to this could be, if someone asks you for information, rather than just giving them the answer you show them how you found it.

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"bollocks to the chart"

@pennyb Campaigning thing librarians should do-ask charities and other good people to send list of suggested resources to libraries

@Albfreeman in some instances community-managed libraries are more cohesive than council libraries. Public libraries can learn from this
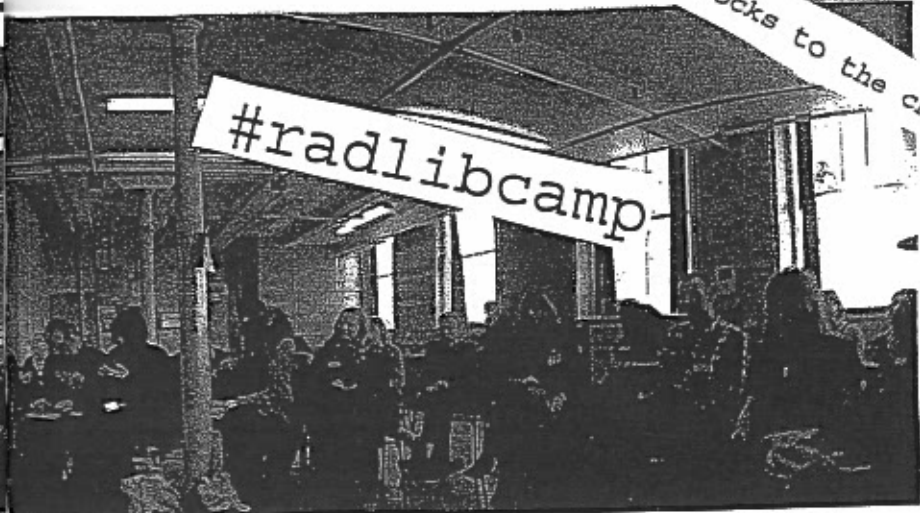
@preater neoliberal management jargon used to confuse and exert control...library jargon comparison from @daveyp right on

@srobalino Do councils ever ask users why they go to/use libraries? Not just for borrowing

@alicecorble need to create a new language to justify the value of libraries

@shedsue Public libraries could be platforms for the community. Meeting space, social space, creative space, sharing space

"During the plenery session at Bradford it was suggested a space was created to build on some of the ideas and discussions that emerged on the day. As a result, a private wiki - Radical Library Projects - has been created. The intention is to provide a private space to work on projects, ideas and build on those discussions."

→

Bibliography
(Not done to any standard)

* Lovely notes from Jennie Wilson,
                            Gopal Dutta,
* From radical libcamp.tumblr.com
    @ library girl knit
    @ megan dyson 3
    @ preater
* www.tattletapeandtea.wordpress.com

* Twitter #radlibcamp

Photos are taken from radical libcamp.tumblr

        Thank you and love to
Mike and Bradford Resource Centre

@pennyb "Why can't all of life be like Radical
Library Camp?"

Anna's Vegan Tiffin

250 g digestive biscuits

50 g raisins

50 g pistachio nuts

400 g dark chocolate

100g margarine

4 tbsp golden syrup

- Line loaf/café tin with clingfilm
- Crumble biscuits into small pieces into large mixing bowl
- Add raisins & chopped nuts and mix
- Melt marge in a saucepan over low heat. When melted, stir in syrup
- Break up dark choc & add to marge, keep stirring!
- Once choc has melted, add to dry mix & stir well. Pour the mix in the loaf/cake tin
- Place in fridge to cool, leave overnight if possible
- Remove and cut into slices
- Eat with other radical librarians whilst changing the world of information as we know it!