WHY RADICAL LIBRARIANSHIP?

an introduction...
What is it to be radical?
“...radical simply means ‘grasping things at the root’.”

WHAT DISTINGUISHES US FROM VOLUNTEERS?
THE ONLY WAY
IS ETHICS...
Commitment to the defence, and the advancement, of access to information, ideas and works of the imagination.
Respect for confidentiality and privacy in dealing with information users.
How can we ensure respect for confidentiality and privacy in a modern surveillance state?
“Small-scale networks such as those in cafes, libraries and universities could find themselves targeted under the legislation and forced to hand over customers’ confidential personal data tracking their web use.”
“In a democratic society privacy of communication is essential if citizens are to think and act creatively and constructively. Fear or suspicion that one's speech is being monitored by a stranger, even without the reality of such activity, can have a seriously inhibiting effect upon the willingness to voice critical and constructive ideas.”

“...a 20 percent decline in page views on Wikipedia articles related to terrorism, including those that mentioned ‘al Qaeda,’ ‘car bomb’ or ‘Taliban.’”
“If people are spooked or deterred from learning about important policy matters like terrorism and national security, this is a real threat to proper democratic debate.”

“...initial analysis only scratches the surface of this important area, but it is clear that policymakers need to develop a better understanding of mistrust in the privacy and security of the Internet and the resulting chilling effects. In addition to being a problem of great concern to many Americans, privacy and security issues may reduce economic activity and hamper the free exchange of ideas online.”

FREEDOM
SOCIETY
Neoliberalism sees competition as the defining characteristic of human relations. It redefines citizens as consumers, whose democratic choices are best exercised by buying and selling, a process that rewards merit and punishes inefficiency. It maintains that “the market” delivers benefits that could never be achieved by planning.

- George Monbiot
What is neoliberalism?
Neoliberalism n. a political philosophy that argues in favour of privatisation, deregulation, and shrinking of the state to the benefit of the private sector.
As among the different provinces of a great empire the freedom of the inland trade appears, both from reason and experience, not only the best palliative of a dearth, but the most effectual preventative of a famine; so would the freedom of the exportation and importation trade be among the different states into which a great continent was divided.

Smith, A. (1776). Wealth of Nations
Classical economics >
Classical liberals >
Laissez-faire >
Neoliberalism
Manchester School laissez faire would leave cars free to travel as they want and in any direction, leading to traffic jams and accidents.

Central planning would tell every driver when to use their car and where to drive.

Neoliberalism establishes a traffic regulation which leaves drivers free to choose where to go...

The state has to guarantee, for example, the quality and integrity of money. It must also set up those military, defence, police, and legal structures and functions required to secure private property rights and to guarantee, by force if need be, the proper functioning of markets.

La historia no se detiene ni con la represión ni con el crimen.

Pero el mañana será del pueblo, será de los trabajadores.

La humanidad avanza para la conquista de una vida mejor.

Salvador Allende. 11 de Septiembre 1973 - Últimas Palabras.
The cost of an average undergraduate course is around £15,600, taking up 73% of the average salary in Chile (at last estimation). And with the introduction of student loans, the average student finishes their course with a debt of around £25,000.
A core principle of neoliberalism is that citizens are to be defined first and foremost as consumers.

Fox, J. (2016). “Neoliberalism” is it? https://www.opendemocracy.net/uk/jeremy-fox/neoliberalism-is-it
Customer (ˈkʌstəmə/) n. 1 A person who buys goods or services from a shop or business.
The language we use has effects in moulding identities and characterising social relationships...Discourse matters. Moreover it changes, and it can...be changed.

- Doreen Massey
COMMODITY
It is a form of terrorism because it abstracts economics from ethics and social costs, makes a mockery of democracy, works to dismantle the welfare state, thrives on militarization, undermines any public sphere not governed by market values, and transforms people into commodities.

- Henry Giroux

Source: truth-out.org/news/item/13030-a-conversation-with-henry-a-giroux
In so far as neoliberalism values market exchange as ‘an ethic in itself, capable of acting as a guide to all human action, and substituting for all previously held ethical beliefs’, it emphasises the significance of contractual relations in the marketplace.

“...radical simply means ‘grasping things at the root’.”

NEUTRALITY
“A liberal library association would support intellectual freedom, access to information, and liberal democratic political institutions, but wouldn’t go on to make political statements irrelevant to libraries...”

Wanting a collection to represent a range of views is a fine goal, but wanting the profession to be neutral on issues that impact our jobs, institutions, and the people we serve is cowardice. It is also unrealistic. People have perspectives, as do publications, collections, databases, search engines, and technologies. Not a single item or person in a library is neutral. There is no way the institution or the profession can be neutral.

Jaeger, Paul T. and Sarin, Lindsay C. (2016) “All Librarianship is Political: Educate Accordingly, “The Political Librarian: Vol. 2: Iss. 1, Article 8. Available at: http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/pollib/vol2/iss1/8
Claiming that libraries ought to be liberal institutions that take ‘no substantive political position’ is a political position in and of itself. And it is not a neutral one (if such a thing is even possible).

Question Everything (Nullius in verba) Take nobody's word for it | Flickr - Photo Sharing! : taken from - https://www.flickr.com/photos/dullhunk/202872717/ Author: Duncan Hull https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/
RESOURCE CENTRE
RADICAL LIBRARY CAMP.
Job title change to "Customer Service Librarian"

"Change to Sense of Value & Library"

Cannot play the game, does not compensate

Uncertainty, fear, lack of intangibility

Meta skills, not vocation

Uncertainty, fear, lack of intangibility

Class as Basic

Students feel mind-bending and libraries?
LIS open access declaration

We believe that open access to all scholarly research is a public good. In accordance with statements in support of open access including the Budapest Open Access Initiative and the IFLA Statement on Open Access to Scholarly Literature and Research Documentation, we affirm that the products of our scholarship in any form should be made openly accessible as a means to support a more sustainable and inclusive system of scholarship and to reduce information inequality.

As library and information professionals with an ethical standpoint of ‘access for all’ we believe that our profession must live up to its ideals and principles of accessibility and information sharing. The scholarly communication process has moved too far from these ideals and we feel that it is now time to affirm our support for open scholarship.

Therefore, we the undersigned, pledge to make ALL OF OUR WORK open access wherever possible. This may include: placing versions of our work in institutional and disciplinary repositories, publishing in open access journals, refusing to perform editorial or refereeing work for closed access journals, retaining copyright to our work, and licensing our work for broad and expansive re-use using Creative Commons licenses (with a preference for CC-BY wherever possible).
Focus and Scope

*Journal of Radical Librarianship* is an open access journal publishing high quality, rigorously reviewed and innovative scholarly work in the field of radical librarianship. It also publishes non-peer-reviewed commentary and reviews. The scope of the journal is any work that contributes to a discourse around critical library and information theory and practice. The subject areas listed below should be regarded as indicative rather than exhaustive.

For the peer-reviewed section, there are seven Editors with responsibility for articles depending on their subject:

- Information literacy - Katherine Lynch
- Politics and social justice - Ian Clark
- Scholarly communication - Kevin Sanders and Stuart Lawson
- Equality and diversity - Liz Chapman
- Library history - Simon Barron
- Management and professionalism - Andrew Preater
- Political economy of information and knowledge - Stuart Lawson and Kevin Sanders

Section Policies

*Peer-reviewed* research and theory articles in the field of radical librarianship. Interdisciplinary in scope, this includes any work that contributes to a discourse around critical library and information theory and practice.
PROBLEMATIC
DIY
As soon as “immediate results” become the principal aim of our activity, the clear-cut, irreconcilable point of view...will be found more and more inconvenient. The direct consequence of this will be the adoption by the party...diplomatic conciliation. But this attitude cannot be continued for a long time...the logical consequence of such a program must necessarily be disillusionment.

- Rosa Luxemburg
“Whiteness has permeated every aspect of librarianship, extending even to the initiatives we commit to increasing diversity.”

- April Hathcock

Source: http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2015/lis-diversity/
HORIZONTALIST
NEOLIBERALISM
RESISTANCE

Author: Michael Kotter
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/
Thank you


CROWD SOURCED READING LISTS

CRITICAL THEORY: Critical Theory in Library and Information Studies reading list https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OJVC40-SPRKlw02ck2FBMySCHdtMAjan9m30IEa6GVg

I feel your pain, I don’t like talking on the phone either...

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