



Let's Get Critical Looking in to See Out

Meg Brunner, MLIS

Image: Gratisography

Librarian stereotypes



I will Dewey
decimate you!

Image: Shutterstock

Librarian stereotypes



- Perpetuate misogyny
- Impede diversity
- Create anxiety in users

Image: Shutterstock

Dee Garrison

“It is important that librarians assess the basic meaning of **feminization** and give precise attention to their early history, for the **dominance of women** is surely the prevailing factor in library education, the image of librarianship, and the professionalization of the field.”



Garrison D. The tender technicians: The feminization of public librarianship, 1876-1905. *Journal of Social History* 1972;6(2):131-159

History of women in libraries

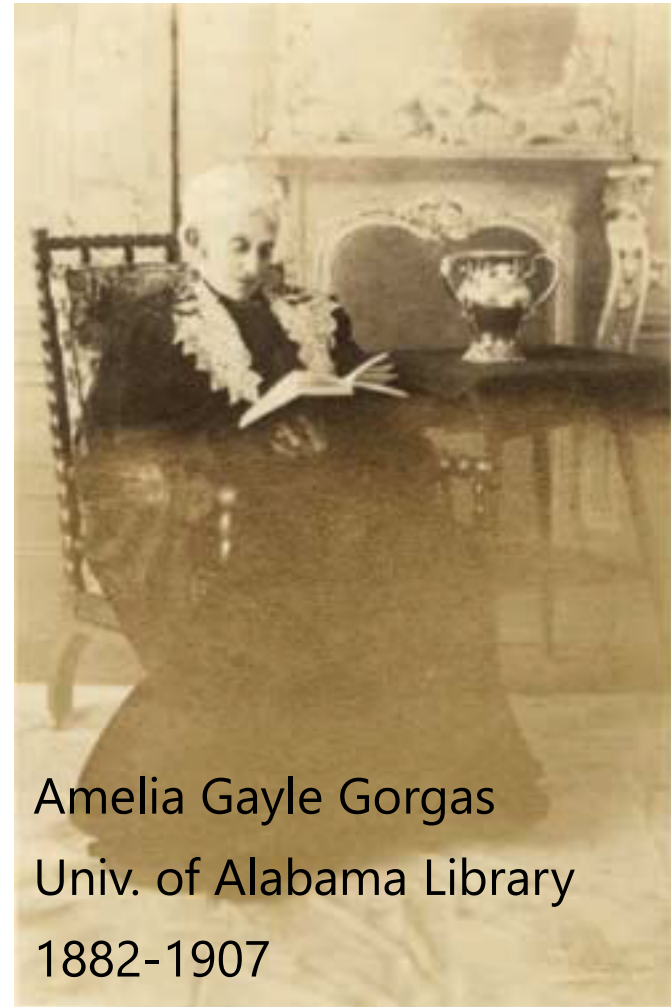
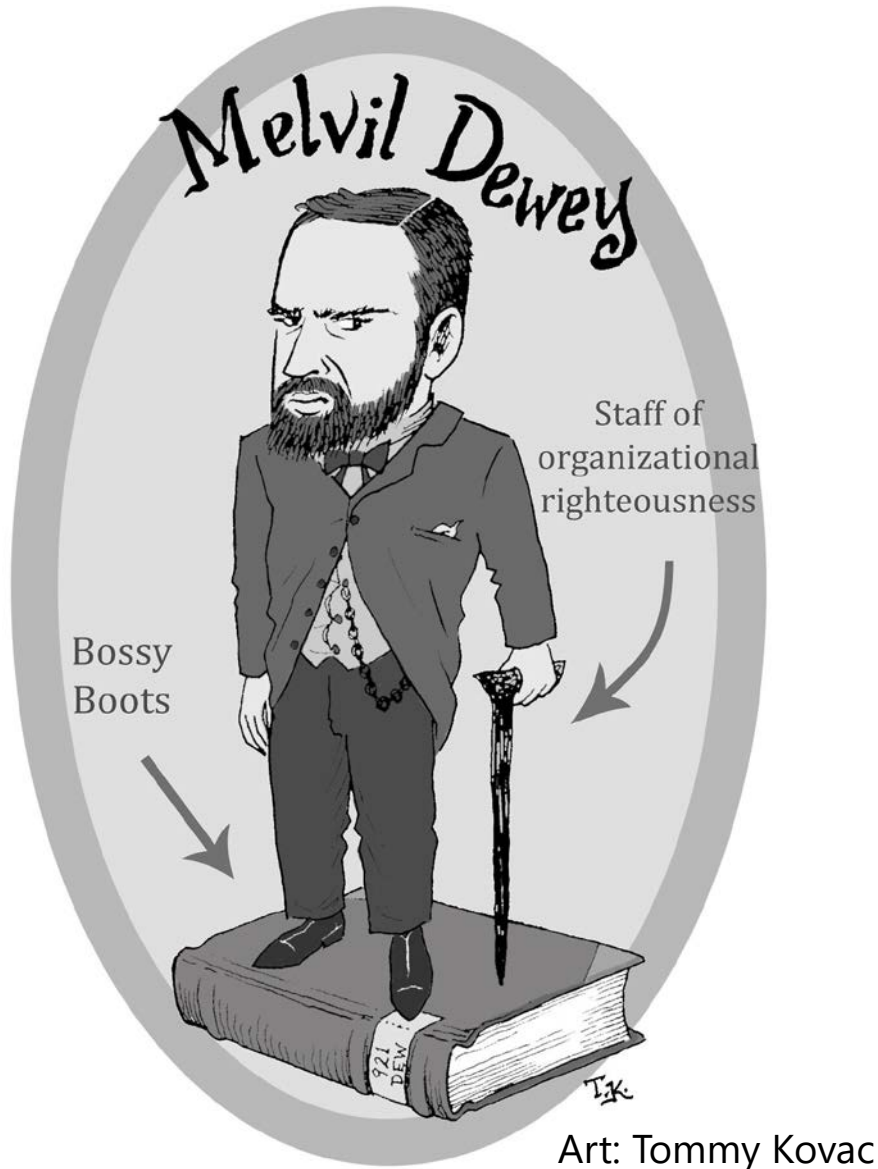
1852 First woman librarian hired

1878 67% of librarians are women

1920 90% women

2015 83% women

Early Librarians



Amelia Gayle Gorgas
Univ. of Alabama Library
1882-1907

Image: Wikipedia

Stereotype shifts

Male librarians:

Academic work

Systems work



Women librarians:

"Women's work"

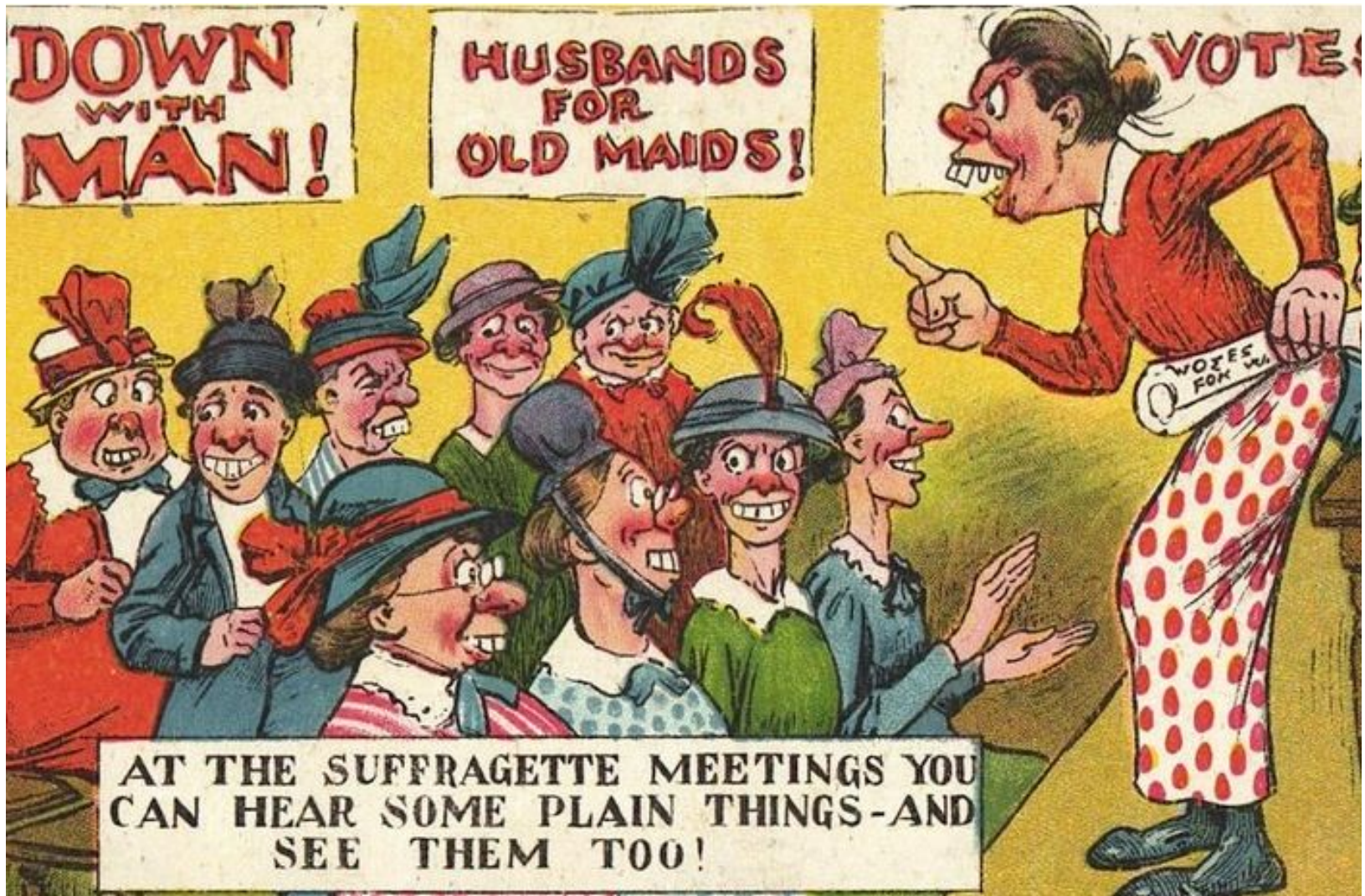
Service

Listening

Caregiving



“Old Maid” and others



“Old Maid” and others



“Old Maid” and others



“Old Maid” and others



“Reading books all day”



“Reading books all day”

TABLE 7
RANK OF LIBRARIANS BY FACULTY

	N	%
Academics equal with teaching faculty	37	9.5
Professionals	255	65.4
Semiprofessionals	40	10.3
Clerks	4	1.0
Other	54	13.8
Total	390	100.0

Ivey RT. Teaching faculty perceptions of academic librarians at Memphis State University. *College & Research Libraries* 1994; 55(1):69-82.

The Unbearable Whiteness of Being ^{*a librarian}

Race/Ethnicity of U.S. Librarians

- 8.5% Black or African American
- 4.8% Hispanic or Latinx
- 2.8% Asian

Dept. of Labor, 2015

The Unbearable Whiteness of Being ^{*a librarian}



The Unbearable Whiteness of Being ^{*a librarian}



A critical look at ourselves



Image: Shutterstock

What is critical librarianship

A word cloud centered around the word "empathy". The word "empathy" is the largest and most prominent, rendered in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Surrounding it are various other words in different colors and sizes, including: "compassion" (large, red, diagonal), "understanding" (medium, blue, diagonal), "presence" (medium, blue), "people" (medium, green), "listening" (medium, red), "voice" (medium, blue), "connect" (medium, red), "communication" (small, red), "being" (small, green), "insight" (small, blue), "interpersonal" (small, green), "caring" (small, blue), "representation" (medium, green), "compassion" (medium, purple), "kindness" (medium, green), and "justice" (medium, blue, diagonal).

empathy

compassion

understanding

presence

people

listening

voice

connect

communication

being

insight

interpersonal

caring

representation

compassion

kindness

justice

What is critical librarianship

- Critical eye inward
- Social justice and critical theory
- Question, examine, and challenge the status quo

“Neutrality” in librarianship

- information is free for all
- no one is silenced
- “neutral conduits” of information

NOPE

Privilege in libraries

- The way we teach
- Our materials, websites, databases
- Our services – who gets to use us
- Our language and classification

Critical theory to evaluate:

- Our education systems
- Our positions IN those systems
- Our physical and digital spaces
- What our library does
- What we do IN our library
- How our information is organized
- How it's shared
- How source authority is established

Critical information literacy

“In these days of mass surveillance and the massive transfer of public goods into private hands, citizens need to know much more about how information works. They need to understand the moral, economic, and political context of knowledge.”



Fister B. Practicing Freedom in the Digital Library: Reinventing Libraries. *Library Journal*, 26 August 2013.

“Valid” sources



Looking more deeply



Image: Shutterstock

Information = \$\$\$\$\$\$



Annual Subscription	The Americas	UK	Europe (non Euro zone)	Europe (Euro Zone)	ROW
Institutional: Online Only	\$3823	£2071	€2629	€2629	\$4460
Institutional: Print + Online	\$4779	£2589	€3287	€3287	\$5575
Institutional: Print Only	\$3823	£2071	€2629	€2629	\$4460

2018 APA PsycNET Subscription Pricing

	APA PsycNET Gold	APA PsycNET Gold Plus	APA PsycNET Platinum
APA Members	\$139	\$189	\$299
Joint APA/CPA Members	\$139	\$189	\$299
Student Affiliates	\$139	\$189	\$299
International Affiliates	\$299	\$399	\$499
Teacher Affiliates	\$139	\$189	\$299
Non-Member Individuals	\$499	\$599	\$799

Nope.



Scholarly communication online

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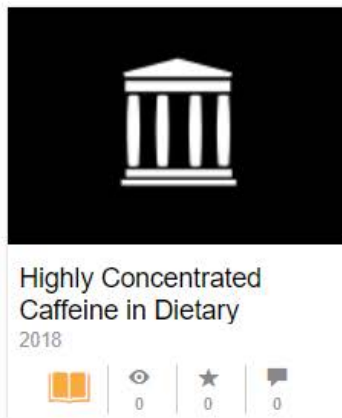
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- ☐ texts 2,119



Research Update (2018 March): Co-Occurring



Speed : de meest



Commonly Abused Drugs
2018

Rural (in)access to journals

- American Journal of Drug & Alcohol Abuse

Or purchase it *

Article Purchase

24 hours access for USD 54.00

 Add to cart

Issue Purchase

30 days access for USD 667.00

 Add to cart

* Local tax will be added as applicable

Empower our users!



Information for profit



Peer review



Image: WikimediaCommons

The Market for Lemons



The editor explained that the *Review* did not publish papers on subjects of such **triviality**.

Source: https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economic-sciences/laureates/2001/akerlof-article.html

Worst peer review



TimesHigherEducation ✓

@timeshighered

What's the worst piece of peer review you've ever received? Six academics share theirs.



Kathryn Woodcock

@safeandsilent

Replying to @timeshighered

I was told that I clearly understood nothing about deafness.



Katy Day

@drkatylouiseday

Replying to @timeshighered

The male editor-in-chief said it wasn't the kind of thing that the journal was interested in publishing, but that his wife would probably find it very interesting (it was a discursive study on femininity and family foodwork)



Donna Weeks

@psephy

Replying to @timeshighered

Received very high praise for the manuscript, only to have the reviewer refer to me, the author, throughout as he/his. Probably didn't believe women could write about security...



Dr Akile Ahmet

@AKILEAHMET1

Replying to @timeshighered

I was told we can't publish your qualitative paper as there is no comparative white sample in your study... 🙄🙄

This model impacts:



Big Pile of Cash



Open access will save us!



Eh, not so
fast.

Teach a man to #critlib...

- Our users
- Our researchers/faculty
- Each other! Yay!

Check these out

Journals

- In the Library with the Lead Pipe
- Progressive Librarian
- Journal of Radical Librarianship
- Journal of Critical Library & Information Studies

Websites

- LibraryJuiceAcademy.com and LibraryJuicePress.com for online courses and books
- CritLib.org and #critlib twitter chats

(References on last slide)

Hi, this is bad actually.



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