

The Future of Librarian Labor

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#librarianlabor

Symposium on the Future of Libraries, ALA Midwinter, 1/21/2017

**Think of a time when there was something
you wanted to do in your library, but you
couldn't because of the boss.**

The future of libraries is fighting management control

- Accreditation reduces the role of faculty, describing teaching as ‘the delivery of the student learning experience’
- Adjunctification makes faculty labor increasingly fungible and disposable
- Rise of assessment and analytics culture funnels scarce resources toward counting and reporting rather than teaching and learning

The future of librarian labor is conflict

- LIU Brooklyn faculty lockout
- APSCUF faculty strike, including librarians
- Canadian Union of Public Employees 2974
- Union activity among libraries, archives, and information sector workers chronicled at unionlibraryworkers.blogspot.com

Organizing to build labor power

- Build organized networks: we can do and demand more together than we can individually
- Know who we are: map our colleagues
- Talk to each other: have the organizing conversation to understand what people want, what workplace concerns they share, and what they're willing to do to make change
- Get brave: start with actions that carry a small risk and build toward escalating actions in a coordinated campaign

Librarians are natural organizers

- Skilled at identifying connections
- Experienced in reaching out to people
- Translating complex processes into needs and action
- Librarians show up for each other

Organizing jump start!

Using the handout, describe:

- A workplace demand (increase in wages, a faculty break room, etc.)
- Identify others who might share your demand (students, faculty in other departments, your regional accrediting body)
- Describe two potential actions you might take to press for your demand (wear stickers, circulate a petition, march on the boss's office, etc.)