

Critical Pedagogy and Libraries

A Primer

Case Studies in Critical Pedagogy
METRO Reference & Instruction SIG
16 November 2020

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1. Critical Pedagogy
2. Critical Library Instruction
3. Critical Library Instruction in Practice

Critical Pedagogy

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Centers a commitment to
social justice

Requires dialogue and
reflection

Identifies and addresses
domination in its many forms

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Critical Library Instruction

- Aims to understand how libraries participate in systems of oppression and find ways for librarians and students to act upon these systems
- Applies critical theory and most often the ideas of critical pedagogy to libraries
- More than just instruction; a way of thinking about our work as a whole, from libraries' educational activities to info lit frameworks to labor

Critical information literacy “takes into consideration the social, political, economic, and corporate systems that have power and influence over information production, dissemination, access, and consumption.”

Critical Library Instruction In Practice



Teaching Content

- Classification
- Search Examples
- Academic Conventions and Access
- Corporate Media
- Alternative Media

Teaching Methods

- Discussion and Dialogue
- Group Work
- Skip the Database Demo
- Reflection
- Problem-Posing



What does critical reference and instruction practice look like in a remote environment?

What does critical reference and instruction practice look like ~~in a remote environment~~ when structured by corporate technologies?

What does critical reference and instruction practice look like ~~in a remote environment when structured by corporate technologies~~ while a pandemic is highlighting and exacerbating societal injustices?

“You have to act as if it were possible
to radically transform the world.

And you have to do it all the time.”

- Angela Y. Davis

Lecture at Southern Illinois University, Feb. 13, 2014

Questions and thoughts?

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