

## Call for Abstracts and Creative Format Proposals

*New Librarianship Symposia: A Four-Part Symposia Series*

Virtual, October - November 2021

<https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/newlibrarianshipsymposia/>



*Sponsored by the University of South Carolina, MIT Press, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, the U.S. Library of Congress, the British Library, KB National Library of the Netherlands, OCLC, URFIST de Bordeaux, Enssib, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the American Indian Library Association, and Gigabit Libraries Network.*

This four-part virtual symposia series will explore community-centric approaches to librarianship that push practitioners and scholars into innovative directions. Much has occurred in the last decade that has highlighted the importance of recognizing how institutional oppression and systems of power, global pandemics, and international perspectives inform librarianship. We are seeking abstract submissions for ideas and approaches that can guide the field over the next decade and address the following areas:

- Equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Post-neutrality librarianship
- International influences
- A “new normal” agenda in a COVID-affected world

Symposia sessions will be streamed live, free of charge, and with efforts made to meet accessibility needs. Detailed descriptions for each topical area are below.

Accepted abstracts will be presented during a symposium and published on the University of South Carolina ScholarOne digital platform. Three abstracts for each symposium will be invited for development into white papers and awarded \$2500 stipends. In addition, selected presentations will be developed into commissioned essays to be included in the *Atlas of New Librarianship*. Submissions from library practitioners and early career faculty are highly encouraged.

Please visit the symposia series website at <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/newlibrarianshipsymposia/> to propose contributions by May 30, 2021.

### **Abstract and Symposium Descriptions**

Each symposium will focus on concepts that guide library practice and development, rather than focusing on skills or specific functions tied to a given institution. Participants will be encouraged to seek broad concepts and theory that ultimately determine how librarianship is defined in and outside of the context of a library, as well as beyond sectors (public, academic, school, etc.). These symposia seek the ideas that will guide the field over the next decade instead of the latest trends or services.

Abstract submissions should address one of the four following core topics:

Symposium 1: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: The vital need for diversity in librarianship stems from twin beliefs in the inherent value and dignity of all people and in the fact that the best knowledge is derived from the richest variety of sources. How can this be expressed as a core value of librarianship and what are its implications for the institutions librarians build and maintain? How can we address institutional racism, biases, discrimination, and inaccessibility in library institutions, education, and practice internationally? How might we integrate principles of inclusion and universal design?

Symposium 2: Post-Neutrality Librarianship: Librarians cannot be unbiased neutral information professionals *and* passionate advocates for better communities. To seek an improved society calls for a vision of what “improved” means. How can librarians reconcile the reality of making service decisions in a context of limited resources with a mandate to serve the whole community?

Symposium 3: International Influences: Concepts of diversity, of service, and of librarianship itself are strongly influenced by local contexts. The idea that the work of librarians looks the same in Kenya, Norway, China, and the United States is founded on the strained concept that universal structures serve all. What in librarianship transcends national boundaries, what varies, and what is the process that connects the two?

Symposium 4: A New Normal Agenda in a COVID-Affected World: The COVID pandemic has put in sharp contrast the role of libraries in communities, and made clear how what was once considered normal, must never be normalized again. Librarians must fight for universal broadband, better workforce development, and expand democratic conversations, to ensure the wellbeing of communities and understand their roles in a crisis. What does the new normal agenda for librarianship look like?

### **Paper Abstract Submissions**

Abstracts for papers to be presented during a symposium should discuss, analyze, and critique critical ideas, theories, and concepts addressed within the chosen symposium topic.

Submissions will be evaluated on quality of content; theoretical, conceptual, or practical significance; relevance for practice; originality; and clarity.

The maximum length for an abstract, including references, is 500 words. Appendices should not be included. No author names should be listed in the abstract submitted for review.

### **Creative Format Contribution Proposals**

In addition to the call for paper abstracts, we invite multimedia contributions in visual, audio, audiovisual, or hybrid formats. Contributions should include a sample of work and a contributor statement and engage with critical ideas, theories, and concepts addressed within the chosen symposium topic. Submissions will be evaluated for quality of content; theoretical, conceptual, or practical significance; relevance for practice; and creativity.

*Editorial Board Review:* Submissions will be refereed by an editorial board assigned to each symposium area. Editorial board members by area are:

#### **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, convened by Clayton Copeland (University of South Carolina):**

Marie Engberg Eiriksson (Universal Design Hub, Bevica Foundation), Jane Garner (Charles Sturt University), LaVerne Gray (Syracuse University), Aira Huttunen (University of Oulu), Liz Jolly (British Library), Kevin Mallary (Western Carolina University), Abigail Phillips (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Hui-Yun Sung (National Chung Hsing University)

#### **Post-Neutrality, convened by Vanessa Kitzie (University of South Carolina):**

Raphaëlle Bats (Urfist de Bordeaux, Université de Bordeaux), Monica Colon-Aguirre (University of South Carolina), Hans-Christoph Hobohm (University of Applied Sciences Potsdam), Marie D. Martel (Université de Montréal), Amalie Ørum Hansen (Gentofte Central Library & Nordic Network for Norm Critical Leadership)

#### **International Influences, convened by Tami Blumenfield (University of South Carolina and University of New Mexico):**

Erik Boekesteijn (National Library of the Netherlands), Camille Callison (University of Manitoba), Keren Dali (University of Denver), Jorge Moisés Kroll do Prado (Brazilian Federation of Librarians Associations, Information Scientists and Institutions), Marie Østergård (Aarhus Public Libraries), Luo Zhou (Duke University Libraries)

#### **A New Normal Agenda in a Post-COVID World, convened by R. David Lankes (University of South Carolina):**

Shauntee Burns-Simpson (Black Caucus of the American Library Association), Christopher Cox (Clemson University), Henrik Jochumsen (University of Copenhagen), Mia Høj Mathiassen (University of Copenhagen), Veronda Pitchford (Califa Group), Megan Threats (Rutgers University)

### **Important Dates**

- May 30, 2021: Abstract submissions due by 11:59 PM EST
- August 1, 2021: Notification of abstract and creative format proposal acceptance; notification of abstracts selected for white paper commissions
- October 28, 2021: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Symposium
- November 4, 2021: Post-Neutrality Librarianship Symposium

- November 11, 2021: International Influences Symposium
- November 18, 2021: A New Normal Agenda in a COVID-Affected World Symposium
- February 28, 2022: Publication submissions due by 11:59 PM EST (GMT -5)
- July 2022: Processing of materials, copyediting of submissions, and preparation of introductory materials, including audio introductions of selected content, will be completed and published on the University of South Carolina ScholarOne site.
- End of 2022 (approximate): Target publication date for *The Atlas of New Librarianship*, Second Edition

**Organized by**

R. David Lankes, Professor and Director of the University of South Carolina School of Information Science

Clayton A. Copeland, Director of the Laboratory for Leadership in Equity and Diversity (LLEAD) and Instructor, School of Information Science, University of South Carolina

Vanessa Kitzie, Assistant Professor, School of Information Science, University of South Carolina

Tami Blumenfield, Anthropologist and Special Projects Coordinator, University of South Carolina School of Information Science; Adjunct Assistant Professor of Ethnology, University of New Mexico

Erik Boekesteijn, Senior Advisor, National Library of the Netherlands