

# A work in process: Cultivating inclusive classrooms

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# Who we are:



Alyssa Vincent

Digital Scholarship Librarian



Robin Harris

Librarian for the Carruthers  
Center for Inner City Studies



Michelle Oh

Education Librarian

# Who we are: NEIU

## NEIU Students

- 34.2% Hispanic students
- 32.5% White students
- 10.4% African American students
- 8.2% Asian students
- 9.3% Unknown
- Average age: 28

## NEIU Librarians

- 8% Hispanic
- 67% White
- 8% African American
- 16% Asian

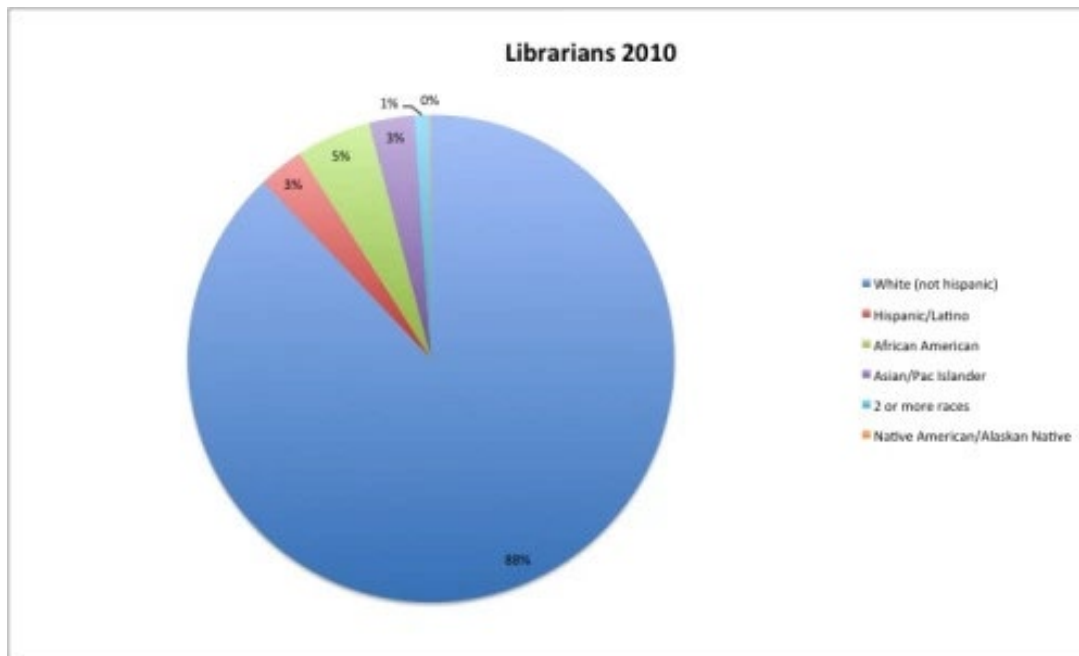


Chart via Feral Librarian <https://chrisbourg.wordpress.com/2014/03/03/the-unbearable-whiteness-of-librarianship/>; data via <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org/aboutala/files/content/diversity/diversitycounts/diversitycountstables2012.pdf>

# Introduction to Library Research and Information Fluency

- NDP 305: Introduction to Research and Information Fluency
  - NDP = Non-traditional Degree Program
  - 9 sessions
  - Worth 1 credit hour
  - Final project: annotated bibliography with 5-7 sources
- Syllabus aligned with the Framework for Information Literacy
- Challenges
  - Varying levels of familiarity with research and technology
  - Students wanted the “right” answers, not conversations about authority
  - Hadn’t designed an accessible course

# Our last class session: Apocalypto now!

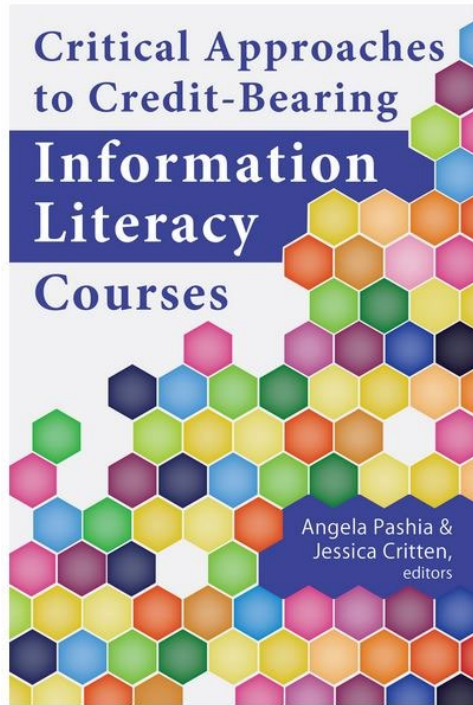


In the Maya civilization, a peaceful tribe is brutally attacked by warriors seeking slaves and human beings for sacrifice for their gods.

# Revisiting the experience

- [ILI-I listserv post on October 17, 2017](#)
- “How can we best encourage these students to acknowledge and give weight to evidence, regardless of their worldviews?”

For more info...



“Chapters include case studies of how information literacy courses can respond to preconceptions and unexamined ideologies students may bring to the course; explorations of marginalized knowledge and racial bias and justice; individual lessons or sets of lessons situated within the larger course context; and reflections on the process of developing a more critical approach.”

# Inclusive librarianship in the Inner City Studies Program

Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies

- Bronzeville, Chicago
- Grad and undergrad degrees in Inner City Studies, as well as gen eds
- African-centered perspective, instead of a traditional, Eurocentric viewpoint
- About 98% African American



# Inclusive librarianship in the Inner City Studies Program

## Instruction

- Who the peers in “peer review” are
- **Authority is constructed and contextual frame** : information, power, knowledge production, bias

## Research Consultations

- **Scholarship as communication** , the need for varied perspectives and interpretations in research

# Considerations for more inclusive practices

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- “A research-based set of principles to guide the design of learning environments that are accessible and effective for all.”

--Center for Applied Special Technology

# Considering three areas within a UDL framework

- Classroom Spaces
- Lesson Planning
- Use of Language

# Questions?

[Webinar Reading List](#)

[ACRL Instruction for Diverse Populations Committee  
Bibliography](#)