

6A—Critical Information Literacy Courses

Empowering Students, Renewing Teaching: A Sustainable Approach to Critical Information Literacy, Ian Beilin (Columbia University), Anne Leonard (New York City College of Technology, CUNY).

The library at our large urban, public college offers a credit-bearing information literacy class that challenges students to explore the information lifecycle, to confront issues in information and media, and to critically evaluate information and its contexts. Inspired by critical pedagogy, the class nurtures discussions about corporate media monopolies, “paywalls,” and “gatekeepers” in publishing who control access to information. Our students bring perspectives on these issues that often challenge our own. Being sensitive and responsive to students’ lives and experiences sustains our enthusiasm for and dedication to teaching information literacy and it ensures students’ critical engagement with information issues.