

7A—Information Literacy and Neoliberalism: History, Theory, Practice

Enlightenment, Neoliberalism, and Information Literacy, Maura Seale (Georgetown University).

Recently, library scholars and practitioners have advocated that libraries and librarians embrace ideals historically associated with the Enlightenment. These ideals—rationality, objectivity, positivism—are often central to discussions around instruction and information literacy, including the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education. Enlightenment ideals are also key to neoliberal ideology and political projects. This presentation will summarize the role of the Enlightenment in discourses around librarianship and information literacy and engage in close readings of the Framework in order to critically examine how the revisions promulgate, critique, or ventriloquate the ideas and language of the Enlightenment and neoliberalism.