4B—Identity Matters #1

Identity and Information Literacy

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How do we as librarians help students, who come from a range of communities with widely diverse norms and assumptions, to recognize their own biases and worldviews? Traditional information-literacy lessons often focus on finding and evaluating sources without examining the student’s own ideological perspective. The one-shot instruction model seems particularly unsuited for the intellectual and emotional work of examining personal biases, and even for a semester-long credit-bearing information literacy course this would be challenging work. This presentation explores this issue and some ways librarians are trying to encourage students to become aware of personal biases—particularly for those with hegemonic norms—in interacting with information.