

2C—THE CRITICAL LIBRARIANSHIP IN PRACTICE 1 #3

When You're Digging Up Data, How Dirty Do You Get Your Hands?

Elizabeth Hill (University of Western Ontario) & Vince Gray (University of Western Ontario)

Data librarians face the issue of providing access to data, through local services or shared services (e.g., <http://odesi.ca> or <http://open.canada.ca>). What role does or should the librarian have in vetting the quality of the data, the quality of the results obtained by users of those data, or in recommending methods of using those data? To what extent does this extend to other resources (e.g., data tables, reports, or statistics found on the web)? Do the specific concerns of data librarians extend to other specialists? The talk will draw specific examples from working with Statistics Canada's Postal Code Conversion File Plus (PCCF+), which is used by researchers to match socio-economic information to respondents based on respondents' postal code.