

6A—CRITICAL LIBRARIANSHIP IN PRACTICE 2 #1

Sociopolitical Barriers to Information and Community Well Being: Implications for Librarian Teaching Practice

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Librarian teaching practice often focuses on information that can be discovered and accessed through effective querying of catalogues, databases, and other information systems. But what if information a student or researcher needs has been suppressed or problematically modified? How does our teaching practice help students and communities contend with circumstances in which political or corporate power tarnishes the integrity of available information or creates conditions where reliable information is not made available? This paper examines these questions by considering the 2015 firing of New Brunswick's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the fate of her investigation into public health implications of the aerial spraying of a controversial herbicide throughout the province. It examines the implications that missing information and evidence can have on public knowledge about important health issues and considers the role librarians can play in contesting sociopolitical barriers to information.