

Resources

Progressive Librarians Guild:
<http://libr.org/plg/>

Radical Reference:
<http://www.radicalreference.info>

*American Library Association's
Social Responsibilities Round Table
(SRRT):*
<http://libr.org/srrt/>

PLG: UA Chapter's del.icio.us
page:
http://del.icio.us/PLG_SIRLS

Our Statement of Purpose

As the University of Arizona Chapter of Progressive Librarians Guild, we strive to uphold and promote social responsibility and diverse points of view through participation in the LIS field.

We believe that direct communication on progressive issues with LIS students and professionals, as well as the community, will provide opportunities for improving libraries for all.

Through cooperative discussion, projects, and direct action on myriad subjects, and from multiple viewpoints, we aspire to attain the ideals of a true democratic society.

Contact Us

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<http://plg-sirls.pbwiki.com>

Artwork by Dorothy Gambrell
<http://www.catandgirl.com>

Librarianship is Political

Librarians and information professionals:

- can be gatekeepers or distributors of information
- determine which materials are preserved, collected, and weeded out; this shapes our collective memory
- decide how information is stored and organized

Libraries are important to activism. They:

- are necessary for an educated population, and an educated population is the cornerstone of an effective democracy
- can promote or hinder equity of access
- reflect the collective memory

“While libraries may make claims against ‘promoting’ lifestyles’, they hold full power over how to classify them.”

(Kumbier, A. (2002). Liberating information: Radical librarians shelve the status quo. *Punk Planet* (52), 86-90.)

What is a Progressive Librarian?

A progressive librarian:

- is an information professional who defends and extends the idea of libraries for the people, by using library and information science (LIS) education and community ties to champion change for all
- has a stake in the community, being supportive of like-minded organizations and working with others to achieve a truly democratic society
- promotes open access while encouraging scholarship and research: the original purpose of copyright

*“Members of **PLG** do not accept the sterile notion of the neutrality of librarianship, and **we strongly oppose the commodification of information** which turns the ‘information commons’ into privatized, commercialized zones. **We will help to dissect the implications of these powerful trends, and fight their anti-democratic tendencies.**”*

(From PLG website)

About Progressive Librarians Guild: UA Chapter

One of only six national chapters of PLG

Members consist of School of Information Resources & Library Science (SIRLS) students, alumni, and community library workers

New organization: formed in spring 2008, officially recognized by the parent organization, the UA, and SIRLS

“PLG is a network of librarians and groups and institutions sharing a common commitment to radical librarianship, promoting solidarity and communicating vital information about activities and issues as they emerge.”

(From PLG website)

We are interested in:

- providing services to the Tucson community (free workshops, cataloging/basic check-out system help for activist organizations, some reference assistance)
- organizing events to enrich and educate the LIS community and local community members
- collaborating with community groups to affect change in our surroundings
- taking action on important library issues, not allowing the status quo or “business as usual” to proliferate