PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT
JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY OF LEARNING AND DISCUSSION

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM & PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN LIBRARIES

WHEN: Friday, March 29, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
COST: Free
WHERE: In-person at the Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) office in Edwardsville. Also available by video conference at IHLS-Champaign, IHLS-Carbondale and Illinois State Library, or join online via Zoom.

EVENT SCHEDULE
9:00-9:30  Coffee and Mingle
9:30-10:00 Welcoming Remarks
10:00-11:30 Intellectual Freedom Presentation by Jamie LaRue
11:30-11:45 UNO Library Science Program Promotion
11:45-1:00 Lunch Break
1:00-1:30 Professional Ethics Presentation by Erica Rose
1:30-3:00 Professional Ethics Small Group Discussions

PRESENTATION DETAILS

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Since 1939, the Library Bill of Rights has defined a core value of librarianship: intellectual freedom. But recent cases suggest a shift. A 2016 PEN America report found support for free speech is falling among college students, although support for social justice is rising. “A Birthday Cake for George Washington,” a children’s book written, illustrated and edited by women of color, was withdrawn from the market by the publisher when African-Americans began tweeting about #smilingslaves. How do we connect the dots between intellectual freedom and social justice? Can we?

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Professional ethics are the cornerstone of our work. Libraries were founded and built upon the bedrock of our core principles: intellectual freedom, equal access, and quality service (to name a few). Our commitment to these principles upholds the spirit of democracy and freedom that is the heartbeat of our society. At the same time, every library commits to serving their individual communities according to their unique needs. The juxtaposition of library ethics, community politics, and personal morals can be deeply confusing and divisive. How do we navigate this? How do we inspire our coworkers and staff to navigate this? This discussion will open with an affirmation of our Code of Ethics before diving into group discussions about how this plays out in unique libraries and communities.

PRESENTER

Jamie LaRue is the CEO of LaRue and Associates. Author of “The New Inquisition: Understanding and Managing Intellectual Freedom Challenges,” LaRue was a public library director for many years, as well as a weekly newspaper columnist and cable TV host. In 2014, the Trustees of Douglas County (Colorado) Libraries named a library after him, and he’s not even dead yet. From January 2016 to November 2018, he was director of the ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, and the Freedom to Read Foundation. He has written, spoken, and consulted extensively on intellectual freedom issues, leadership and organizational development, community engagement, and the future of libraries.

Erica Rose is the Program Coordinator and Library Science faculty at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Though she has been privileged to work in many kinds of libraries, public libraries are her great love. Cruising in a brand-new bookmobile was one of her top 10 work days of all time. These days, sharing the joy of this work through mentoring current and future librarians is her passion and privilege. Her areas of interest and expertise include leadership and management, community engagement and outreach, children’s and young adult literature, and online education. She loves good coffee, a good belly laugh, and impractical shoes.

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