

A work session for journalists, librarians and citizens

April 6-7, 2011 / MIT / Cambridge, Mass.

(immediately prior to the
National Conference for Media Reform)

REGISTER NOW: www.biblionews.org

BEYOND BOOKS



NEWS, LITERACY AND DEMOCRACY FOR AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

PLEASE POST AND FORWARD

GRADUATE-STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS TO ATTEND “BEYOND BOOKS” APRIL 6-8 AT MIT CENTER FOR FUTURE CIVIC MEDIA

Cambridge event links journalists, librarians;

Apply by email before March 15

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Up to 10 fellowships, consisting of registration, travel and lodging stipends for graduate students, are available to attend “*Beyond Books: News, Literacy, Democracy & America’s Libraries*,” an unprecedented collaboration of journalists and librarians set for April 6-8 at the MIT Center for Future Civic Media.

The two-day, agenda-setting work session and symposium will consider how journalists and librarians can work together to promote civic engagement and open information access. It is designed to amplify the voices of between 90 and 130 librarians, teachers, graduate students, journalists, technologists, scholars and citizens in dialog, discussion and work.

The event is immediately before the National Conference for Media Reform, in Boston, April 8-10. (<http://conference.freepress.net>)

HOW TO APPLY

Graduate students in library and information sciences or journalism are eligible. Send an email to jtm@journalismthatmatters.org or register directly for the gathering via <http://www.biblionews.org> and choose the \$20 “request stipend” option. Applications will be considered, and award amounts determined, based on need, timeliness and the relevance of an applicant’s experience or research focus.

For more information go to

<http://journalismthatmatters.org/biblionews/2011/03/03/fellowships>

Find out who's participating:

<http://www.journalismthatmatters.org/biblionews/whos-coming>

Available funds will reimburse travel, lodging and registration expenses of at least 10 "fellows" – U.S. library or information-science graduate students or recognized thought leaders (by publication or reputation) in civic engagement and open information access -- especially those with knowledge of new media technologies.

"Beyond Books" will inform next steps for designing and implementing a possible national collaborative among, and training for, journalists, libraries and museums on methods for improving open access to public information and civic engagement -- consistent with the recommendations of the 2009-2010 report of the [Knight Commission on the Information Needs of Communities](#).

The event seeks to identify recruit, and begin training journalists, technologists and other members of the public to uncover, study and test new methods of access to public information and civic engagement, particularly in common purpose between and among libraries, journalists and local news providers. It will:

- (a) Outreach to library and information science thought leaders, especially graduate students, for their participation both onsite and through pre- and post-event virtual proceedings and networking.
- (b) Prepare, convene, report and provide post-event assessment and next steps for "Beyond Books: News, Literacy, Democracy and America's Libraries."

CONVENING PURPOSE / APPROACH

For three centuries -- in American towns large and small -- two institutions have uniquely marked a commitment to participatory democracy, learning and open inquiry -- our libraries and our free press. Today, economic and political realities -- or fashions -- invite a thoughtful examination of their roles, and the opportunity for collaboration among these two historic community information centers, one largely public, one largely private.

With via a pre-event social network, an evening agenda-setting dialogue, a day of roundtable planning and closing action commitments, we'll discover what's possible at the intersection of public spaces, open documents, citizen reporting and journalistic purpose. Among the questions we may ask:

- What might libraries do to facilitate community social news networks?
- Must free speech be absolute within a taxpayer-supported institution?
- Should librarians be more partisan than reporters? Reporters more partisan than librarians?
- Are libraries poised to become public-access media centers as cable fades?
- Should a library operate a news collective, non-profit or citizen-journalism service?
- How can libraries help preserve a free digital information commons?

To download a printable version of this *stipend* posting notice go to:

<http://www.newshare.com/biblionews/fellowships.pdf>

For a narrative description of the event purpose and *general* posting notice see:

<http://www.newshare.com/biblionews/overview.pdf>

STIPEND CRITERIA/SELECTION

Selection of Fellows will be based upon the following guiding criteria:

- Graduate students enrolled in an accredited U.S. school of library and information science, a journalism graduate program or in a professional position undertaking research or practice of library civic engagement, social-media technology application or new applications of digital media to open information access.
- Graduate students should ideally demonstrate interest, experience or expertise in applying new technology or community engagement or collaboration strategies among libraries, news and cable public-access entities, either profit or not-for profit.
- Prospective stipend recipients will apply by registering to attend the conference. Allocation of travel, lodging and registration stipends will be determined by a selection group including Dietmar Wolfram, interim dean, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Nancy C. Kranich, advisory board chair, American Library Association's Center for Public Life, (and past ALA president) / Rutgers Univ. library, Highland Park, N.J.; and Bill Densmore, director, Media Giraffe Project at UMass Amherst and co-founder, Journalism That Matters.

“Beyond Books” sponsors include the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS); the Office of Information Technology Policy of the American Library Association; the MIT Center for Future Civic Media; Journalism That Matters; the Media Giraffe Project and New England News Forum, both at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and others. The conference is organized in part of a three-year IMLS grant to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee: “Overcoming Barriers to Information Access: Educating the Next Generation of Library and Information Science Leaders.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Journalism That Matters Collaborative / c/o Media Giraffe Project / Journalism Program
University of Massachusetts / Amherst MA 01003 / 413-458-8001
Densmore@mediagiraffe.org

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School of Information Studies

INFORMATION our focus
INTERNATIONAL our scope
INTERDISCIPLINARY our mindset

