

CiLIS 2025 Spark Talks

Project Description

Students are responsible for selecting an outside library, library project, or librarian engaged in critical librarianship or social justice work. You are responsible for researching this entity in preparation of a 5-minute presentation to class.

Objective

The purpose of this project is to connect theory and praxis within the real work of libraries in dismantling systems of oppression.

You may choose from this list of possible topics: [Library Internship Presentation Options](#)
Or you may propose your own topic. If you'd like to do that, please check with Emilie before beginning your research.

Presentations should include some or all of the following:

- What is it about this topic that resonates with you? What sparked your interest and spoke to your personal experience?
- Biographical information about the person or background information about the library/organization
- How the mission or purpose of this entity engages with critical librarianship or social justice
- Implications or key takeaways that can be applied to librarianship and/or professional careers of fellow students

Expectations

Your presentation should include a visual element, like slides, but remember that it is only 5 minutes, so you should have a maximum of 7 slides. We will give you a one-minute warning, and we expect that you will complete your talk at the 5 minute limit.

We expect you to spend at least an hour researching and preparing for your presentation. Distilling a lot of information into a short time can be harder than talking about it at length, so be sure to practice your key points and be ready to speak concisely.

This type of short talk is often called a lightning talk, and many professional conferences include lightning talk sessions. Consider your topic talk as an opportunity to practice a professional skill.

You may include a slide with links or other sources for further information if you'd like. We will not post your slides to the CiLIS website, but we are happy to share them within this year's cohort for anyone who is interested.

Please add your name and topic on the [sign up sheet](#) by 1pm on Tuesday.