Community Engagement Through Controversy

With “Current Conversations”

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Current Conversations 2017

March: Women’s Issues
April: Environment
May: Social Justice
June: Mental Health
July: Foreign Relations

August: Economics
September: Government & Grassroots
October: Technology
November: Religion
December: Sexuality
Our Question to You!

Go to www.menti.com and enter the code 60 46 36.

Answer the question: What are some topics that make you uncomfortable?

https://www.mentimeter.com
Headlines from 2016...
“Will I lose my health insurance?”

“Will I not be able to vote without a photo ID?”

“What will happen to my retirement fund?”

“Is Climate Change really a hoax or is it cyclical?”

“Will my immigrant neighbor lose his business?”

“How do I know what’s real and what’s fake?”

“Will Missouri ever comply with the REAL ID Act?”

“Will federal laws overrule state laws towards certain drugs?”
How do we, as librarians, answer these questions?

From a local library...

In times of uncertainty and doubt, we need knowledge and understanding. What do libraries offer? Knowledge and understanding. Time to learn.

1:57 PM - 9 Nov 2016

98 Retweets 155 Likes

To the American Library Association...

BECAUSE LIBRARIES INSPIRE UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNITY HEALING.

www.menti.com; code 60 46 36
Post Election Library

ALA Programming Librarian Blog:
http://www.programminglibrarian.org

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What Were Other Libraries Doing?

Sacramento Public Library: Let’s Talk About:_______

Stair Public Library (Morenci, Michigan):
Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys

AL"If a library isn’t the place to learn what informs that viewpoint...to quell the spread of misinformation, to engage in discussions of social and cultural issues, then what is? Libraries are that place.”
What Were Other Libraries Doing?

Libraries Transforming Communities: Models for Change

First 30 Days: Getting Started
Begin to talk to your library team about their hopes and goals
Put in place the thought processes that will lead to long-term change

30-60 Days: Going into the Community
Begin facilitating conversations with your community

60-90 Days: Sharing What You Learn
Share knowledge and evaluate team progress

90 Days and Beyond: Taking Action

BECAUSE OUR DIVIDED NATION NEEDS CONVERSATION MORE THAN EVER.
A free learning series from ALA and the National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation

St. Charles City-County Library
Making Connections with Other Organizations

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE SAINT LOUIS

St. Charles COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AAUW

LINDENWOOD

MCE

edc

St. Charles City-County Library

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Networking and Attending Workshops

➔ Networking
◆ Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP)
◆ National Commission for Community and Justice for Metropolitan St. Louis (NCCJ-STL)
◆ Intrinsic Change

➔ Attending Workshops
◆ Listen.Learn.Talk. sessions (DAP)
◆ Look for free workshops/town hall meetings to attend
◆ Make connections with the organizations sponsoring them
◆ Great way to put your face out there

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Brainstorming...

**MARCH: WOMEN’S ISSUE:** Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, Child Care, Equal Pay, Puberty, Stalking, Birth Control, Feminism, Sexism, Body Shaming, Menstruation, Equal Distribution of Household Tasks, Health Care, Promiscuity, Self-Defense, Maternity Leave

**APRIL: THE ENVIRONMENT:** Climate Change, Fracking, Noise Pollution, Global Warming, Population Control, Extinction, the Amazon, Clean Water, Recycling, Natural Resources, Animal Rights, Energy Crisis, Foreign Oil, Animal Control, Natural Disasters, Red Cross, FEMA, Radiation (Weldon Spring)


**JUNE: MENTAL HEALTH:** Eating Disorders, Hoarding, Cutting, Depression, Suicide, Hysteria, Bipolar, Self-Harm, Veteran’s Mental Health, Dementia, Alzheimer’s, Happiness, Fitness/Healthy Eating, #InnerHappy, Kindness, Memory, Prioritizing, Drug Abuse

**JULY: FOREIGN RELATIONS:** Immigration, The Vietnam War, the Iraq Wars, Russia, China, Cuba, Secretary of State, Conflict Resolution, Treaties, Nuclear War, Foreign Oil, The World Wars, Ambassadors, Mexico, Canada, The Cold War

**AUGUST: ECONOMICS:** Student Loan Debt, World Debt, Equal Pay, Minimum Wage, ObamaCare, Buy Local, Co-ops, Tiny Houses, Self-Sufficient, Standard of Living, Poverty, Charities, Labor Laws, Bankruptcy, Stock Market, Investing, Home Buying


**OCTOBER: TECHNOLOGY:** Cell phone Usage and Addiction, Cloning, Phishing, Internet Security, Dating Apps, NASA, Space Travel, Inventions, Inventors, 3-D Printing, Texting While Driving, Netflix, Binge TV Watching, Futurism, Social Networks, Online Reputation, Branding, Air Safety, Internet Famous, Self-Driving Cars

**NOVEMBER: RELIGION:** Atheism, Mormonism, Muslims, Christian Science, Scientology, Hinduism, Islam, InterFaith, Freedom of Religion, Church and State, Creationism, Evolution
What does your community need?

Demographics are important! (www.census.gov)
What does your community need?

➔ Talk to your local Economic Development Center

◆ Understand the infrastructure of your community

◆ What is the unemployment rate?

◆ How many small business are in the community? Do they work together?

• At more than $7.5 billion in annual total assessed valuation and accounting for 6.2% of Missouri’s total economy, St. Charles County is ranked third in the state after St. Louis County and Jackson County.

• St. Charles County has two entrepreneurial incubator facilities. EDC Business and Community Partners provides use for mixed businesses and the OPO provides space for tech companies.

• With 8 data centers located along the Highway I-64 “High Tech” corridor, St. Charles County has one of the largest concentrations of IT facilities in metro St. Louis.

• Since 1993, St. Charles County’s population has grown by 70% and in 2016 was #1 in Missouri in population growth.

• St. Charles County is the starting point for the 225-mile Katy Trail State Park and is the most popular section of the system.
What does your community need?

Local Issues v. Hot Button Issues

- What is a local issue that affects your community?
  - Start by leaning towards local concerns as opposed to the larger issue
What does your community need?

➔ TALK TO YOUR COMMUNITY!

➔ Questions from ALA

◆ What are your aspirations for your community?
◆ What challenges do we face in reaching these aspirations?
◆ What needs to change in the community to reach our aspirations?

➔ Underlying issues that need to be addressed

➔ What makes people talk?

Pros

★ Ideal location
★ Strong housing market
★ 3rd largest economy in the state
★ Great school system

Challenges

★ Lack of diversity and culture
★ No mass transit
★ Lack of regional perspective

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Let’s Talk About It!

➔ How did it start?

- Started in April 2012 (Election year)
- Voter registrations - Patron interactions (Current events)
- Maintain neutrality of reference desk

➔ What’s involved?

- Running list of news headlines between meetings (Guideline only)
- Patrons are welcome to add topics, bring newspapers/magazines
- Meetings are scheduled for 90 minutes, but always run over
- Sometimes meet outside branch for lunch and change of scenery
Staying Organized
“Build a Better World”

Summer Reading

Welcome to your library’s new, exciting look! Help us celebrate all summer long...
HISTORY/GENEALOGY

GENEALOGY LAB
1st & 3rd Tuesday
10:00 am

FOCUS ON GENEALOGY: SEARCHING THE SPECIAL SCHEDULES OF THE CENSUS
Learn how to broaden your knowledge of your ancestors using the Agricultural, Draft, Dependents, Delinquent (DDO), Industry and Manufacturing, Mortality, Slave, and Social Statistics schedules of the U.S. Census.
Tuesday, September 12
7:00 pm

BASIC GENEALOGY (6 SESSIONS)
Learn how to research and organize your family history. Please bring family information including names, birth dates and places to the first class to fill out your charts.
Thurs., Sept. 14 – Nov. 16
6:30 pm

ST LOUIS: HISTORICAL DISASTERS AND CATASTROPHES
Join us on a grand tour of the natural and man-made disasters that have shaped the city’s intricate history.
Wednesday, October 25
7:00 pm

CELEBRATION OF KALEIDOSCOPE: THE FIRST EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE/COMIC 
Join us to celebrate the first edition of the magazine/comic featuring local artists and creatives.
Friday, October 27
7:00 pm

CURRENT CONVERSATIONS
An ongoing series that invites discussion & education about topics that affect all of us.

SEPTEMBER: GOVERNMENT & CITIZENSHIP

WHY DESIGN MATTERS
Professor and lawyer William Kaplan will speak about the role that designers play in modern society.
Wednesday, September 6
7:00 pm

THE SUPREME COURT
St. Louis University Constitutional Law professor Joel Cohnfeld will discuss the role of the Supreme Court in our government.
Tuesday, September 12
7:00 pm

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT
Learn how the St. Charles County Veterans Treatment Court addresses treatment needs and mental health issues.
Wednesday, September 13
7:00 pm

BLACK GRAHAMSHOTS MOVEMENTS
Professor Skyla Diggie Colbert will discuss how today’s activists and activists from the Great Depression and Civil Rights era fought for the right to vote.
Thursday, September 14
7:00 pm

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE
Learn about the Electoral College system, its flaws, and its benefits to democracy.
Tuesday, September 19
7:00 pm

POWER WITHOUT CONSENT
Professor Chris Ebeling examines the practices and policies of the Bush and Obama administrations.
Thursday, September 21
7:00 pm

HEALTH CARE REFORM
Discuss health care reform with Diane Haddad from the League of Women Voters.
Wednesday, September 27
6:30 pm

OCTOBER: TECHNOLOGY & INFLUENCE

TECHNOLOGY & WARFARE
Stan Coker, PhD, Department Chair of the Military Science program at University Illinois, will discuss the changing roles of technology in modern warfare.
Tuesday, October 3
7:00 pm

THE EMPOWERMENT PROJECT
This film explores the role of women in American history. After the documentary, participants will have an open discussion about issues affecting women in STEM careers.
Wednesday, October 4
7:00 pm

A FRIEND IN NEED
A DOCUMENTARY FILM
Watch the American documentary about three high school girls who experience bullying.
Friday, October 27
6:30 pm

ISSUES IN SOCIAL MEDIA
St. Charles Community College professor Andrew Copps will discuss issues in the digital age.
Wednesday, October 25
6:30 pm

St. Charles City-County Library

September is Library card sign-up month! Visit www.scccl.org/librarycard for details.

KALEIDOSCOPE
Events, Classes, and more
Current Conversations: The Empowerment Project

St. Charles County Library Middendorf-Kredell Branch
2750 Highway K, O'Fallon, MO (map)

This film inspires an important conversation about women’s empowerment and female leadership by following the lives of 8 successful women in historically male-dominated...

Learn more

Hosted by: Heather Wefel (Organizer)
I WOULD BE PLEASED TO RSVP AS...
“Unless you have a family member in prison or have been in prison - you are clueless on prison life and reform.”

“The talk was great and informative. In addition I have shared how great the library programs are. For me, the library programs are a great resource that I had no idea was available until this year.”

“I shared with my co-workers about what I learned--- 10 ladies and my boss!”
Pros

➔ Meeting knowledgeable people in the community and forming relationships
➔ Patrons enjoyed and appreciated in-depth conversations
➔ Forced us to think outside the box and bring potentially uncomfortable topics out in the open
➔ Most speakers gave freely of their time and expertise
➔ Word got out in our community about what we were doing - some organizations contacted us
➔ Became more comfortable with putting myself out there to ask someone to do something for free
Cons

➔ Labor Intensive
➔ Burn-Out
➔ Attendance
➔ Timing
➔ Intimidating
Current Conversations 2018... or not?

Will there be current conversations in the future?

➔ Quality v. Quantity
➔ Staying Current
➔ $$$$$$
➔ Format of presentations

We are sending you back to the future!

www.menti.com; code 60 46 36
Our Question to You!

Results from Menti.

Have you ever done any programs like this? What was your success rate?