

# Design for Diversity: Information Systems for Diverse Cultural Materials and Ways of Knowing

*Talking Social Justice in Massachusetts Libraries: Diversity to Equity  
Massachusetts Library System 2017 Spring Program  
Devens, MA (June 13, 2017)*



## What is Design for Diversity?

Design for Diversity is an IMLS-funded project focusing on the ways information systems embody and reinforce cultural norms. We plan a public conversation that will result in a collaborative pedagogical toolkit to encourage inclusive and ethical practices in information sciences and system design.

We have questions like: How is naming and representation in our cataloging or data modeling influenced by power? What ethical decisions should be made before exposing digital collections to automated harvesting, analysis, and broad re-use? When tools and interfaces guide interactions with documents and items, are those interfaces responsive to community needs, or do they force a diversity of ideas into ill-fitting and harmful boxes?

We will bring people together to work on these issues, creating a teaching and learning toolkit so that future practitioners will have a stronger framework for developing information systems.

## Who is involved?

Grant staff are based in the Digital Scholarship Group at Northeastern University Libraries. For more information on who we are, see: <http://dsg.neu.edu/research/design-for-diversity/about/people/>

## How can you participate today?

Sign up for our email list for updates and future calls for participation: <http://dsg.neu.edu/d4demail>

Make suggestions of case studies that we might discuss at our opening forum this October. When have you experienced the failure of information systems to be inclusive? <http://dsg.neu.edu/d4dsubmit>

Send us prior work -- articles, books, blogs, projects, standards, or any other work -- you think we should know about. <http://dsg.neu.edu/d4dsubmit>

<http://dsg.neu.edu/d4d> — [DesignforDiversity@northeastern.edu](mailto:DesignforDiversity@northeastern.edu)  
Amanda Rust — [a.rust@northeastern.edu](mailto:a.rust@northeastern.edu)