

Editor's Note

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KEYWORDS: bullshit



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some bullshit: citation, special issue of *Journal of Radical Librarianship*, Vol. 12, 2026. pp. xx- xx. Published 14 Feb, 2026.

This is some bullshit:

(Academic) citation is a representational practice of hollow, ruined potential professional accumulation of intellectual capital.

We have run our mouths enough (see a whole conversation at your disposal), but we wanted to offer a bit of context to this collection of citations. First and foremost, a necessary caveat - not some bullshit, this is all bullshit. The narrative, the job, the tasks, the posturing, the labor - like any other form of publication in this system (western academia), there are elements of bullshit that we cannot get away from.

However, we want to acknowledge and give light to the contributors and their immense labor in this effort, express deep gratitude to this special issue's peer reviewer, Jose C. Guerrero, and provide a few reflective thoughts and overarching themes at this point of this journey.

This project is, cannot, and must not be for everyone. We do not claim any kind of access for all value - rather, we are against that. This is just the start of a conversation about a central element of librarianship (citation) that we have thought about and discussed, and now discussed with our peers. This tiny thread unraveled so much.

Conversation has been a constitutive part across this whole project - from our (editors) convos with each other that predate being editors, to the multiple meetings with contributors (fleshing out and workshopping ideas; helpful, conversational peer review sessions; an all contributor conversation), to a really clarifying, contributive conversation with Jose. We hope to have highlighted important elements of our own knowledge practice: collaborative conversation and clear, honest understandings and positionings of our own political alignment and project, which (hopefully) have made an impression on the pieces that compose this issue.

This is not to say that every single contributor agrees with every single statement we have made. Part of the necessity of these conversations is to honor and discuss our assumptions and attachments, even to discover if we have disagreements (which we absolutely do) - to sharpen our analysis beyond individual critiques of individual narratives and get clarity in the work we are doing and why we are doing it.

This is absolutely a joke we are telling all of you and we are very serious about it.

We question the weight and stability of acknowledgements, networks, growth, and learning in our current practices and structures of citation.

some bullshit: citation, "special issue of Journal of Radical Librarianship," Vol. 12, 2026.

We question the honesty and pedagogy of a list of references.

We question the performance of librarians/archivists and their guarding of citations.

We question the need for standardization as a means to efficiency.

We disagree with the erasure of how networks of knowledge are connected.

We disagree with the offering of an institutionalized and disciplined citational justice.

We disagree on the necessity of periods in the designated place in order to search for the source.

We disagree with our disembodied rituals of disembodied searches with disembodied keywords.

We desire to cite in the most true way possible: not with repetition of greedy publishers, but with the tracing of knowledge of each other.

We desire to uncover and discover process and practice, form and praxis.

We desire to refuse proprietary and carceral surveillance methods and relations.

We desire to not be machinated.