

Research Incentive Fund Report

MONIQUE THREATT
Associate Librarian, Head, Media Services
Interim Librarian for Religious Studies
Herman B Wells Library
Indiana University Bloomington

Summary

For the April cycle of funding in 2023, I requested and was granted \$500 in order to supplement my professional development and grant funding as an invited presenter during *The Innovative Library Classroom* (TLC) annual conference at William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia, June 1-2, 2023. Along with my IU colleagues, Jackie Huddle, Visual Literacy and Resources Librarian, and nicholae cline, Librarian for Media Studies, Gender Studies, & Philosophy, we were selected to host the first ever preconference workshop to address the theme: “Our Pedagogies, Our Selves: Culturally Informed and Responsive Practice.”

Details and Accomplishments

I attended and presented at the preconference workshop for *The Innovative Library Classroom* (TILC), an annual conference devoted to high-quality, creative teaching in library classrooms. As a presenter, I was tasked to answer the question, “How do our cultures, backgrounds, and experiences inform our pedagogy?” Using a critical reflective pedagogical lens, I developed a presentation titled “Media Literacy Education: Representation Matters.” The core of my presentation implemented tools and resources drawn from the National Association of Media Literacy Education’s critical analysis worksheet as a framework to address media literacy and representation of African Americans and Blacks as seen through a news media lens.

I shared my personal and professional history and experiences – as someone who has lived through both the Civil Rights and Black Lives Matters movements and having been a librarian since 2001 – with attendees while also cultivating a shared learning space through interactive and reflective activities. Following my presentation, my reflective activity asked attendees to form six groups for a critical analysis exercise. Each group, comprising of diverse attendees, was tasked to analyze a photograph taken during the Black Lives Matter movement. Little to no information accompanied the image. The photographs allowed for individuals to react and discuss their assigned photograph from either a reflective or intentional perspective.

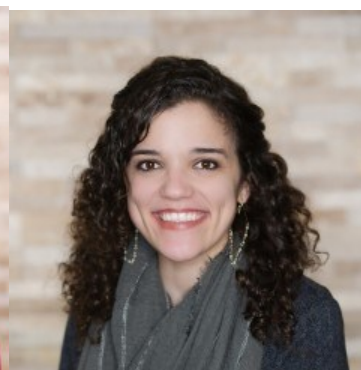
In addition to the presentation, I also contributed to create an [IUB Library LibGuide](#) in which I asked “Why does representation matter in libraries,” and “What does *representation matters* mean to you?” The Libguide is used to further promote and provide resources and discussion post preconference. For the Libguide, I gathered resources from books, articles, movies and more to further highlight both positive and negative portrayals of African Americans and Blacks in multimedia venues. The goal of the presentation was to allow attendees to walk away with tangible examples of reflective teaching practices and related resources. On behalf of my colleagues, it is my belief that we accomplished this goal. The preconference was very limited to pre-paid conference attendees. The preconference registration filled up quickly and, along with my colleagues, we all received positive feedback! I am grateful for the funding from InULA that helped to make this trip possible, as it was valuable both to my personal research goals, as well as to making professional connections that were rewarding for IU Libraries.



Monique Threatt



nicholae cline



Jackie Huddle