

A work session for journalists, librarians and citizens

April 6-7, 2011 / MIT / Cambridge, Mass.

(immediately prior to the

National Conference for Media Reform)

BEYOND BOOKS



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NEWS, LITERACY, DEMOCRACY AND AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

For three centuries, in American towns large and small, two institutions have uniquely marked a commitment to participatory democracy, learning and open inquiry -- our libraries and our free press. Today, as their tools change, their mission of civic engagement and information transparency converge. Economic and technology changes suggest an opportunity for collaboration among these two historic community information centers -- one largely public, one largely private. How?

On Wednesday and Thursday, April 6 and 7, 2011, [Journalism That Matters](#), the American Library Association, the [MIT Center for Future Civic Media](#), the [Media Giraffe Project](#) at UMass Amherst and the [New England News Forum](#) invite you to join "Beyond Books: News, Literacy, Democracy and America's Libraries," a work session for civic engagement and information transparency, in Cambridge, Mass., immediately prior to the [National Conference for Media Reform](#).

With via a pre-event social network, an evening agenda-setting dialogue, a day of roundtable planning and action commitments, we'll discover what's possible at the intersection of public spaces, open documents, citizen reporting and journalistic purpose. Questions we may ask:

- What might libraries do to facilitate community social news networks?
- Must free speech be absolute within a taxpayer-supported institution?
- How do we define the boundaries between engagement and partisanship?
- As cable fades, are libraries poised to become public-access media centers?
- Should a library operate a news collective, non-profit or citizen-journalism service?
- How can libraries help preserve a free digital information commons?

For more information and to register go to:

<http://www.biblionews.org>



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