

# After-School Data Literacy Programs for Youth at the Public Library



## **Leanne Bowler**

Professor, School of Information, Pratt Institute  
iSchool Research Fellow

Traditional approaches to data literacy emphasize quantitative reasoning by focusing on numeracy, statistics, and computer programming but data literacy is, more accurately, a complex array of skills, knowledge, and humanistic reasoning to be applied throughout the data life cycle. This includes a set of dispositions that facilitate the ability to critique data practices, to contextualize data to broader contexts such as platforms, cyberinfrastructure, and society, and to find meaning in data beyond statistical and mathematical arguments. There are many questions as to how public libraries can approach something as complex as data literacy in the voluntary “drop-in” setting of after-school library programs for teens. Engagement may be the key and who but young people themselves should show us what is interesting and meaningful to them. In this presentation, Leanne Bowler will talk about her research in the area of youth data literacy at the public library, most recently through the Data Literacy with, for, and by Youth research project. The study, framed by principles of participatory design, asks, How can public libraries, with the participation of young people, support the development of positive data habits of mind? It does more than look at youth; the aim is to design, build, test, and evolve theory and practice around informal data literacy education alongside youth, with the goal of building a holistic, humanistic, and youth-oriented model of data literacy which incorporates social-awareness, critical approaches, and “goodness of fit” into STEM learning about data.

**February 11, 2022, 11 am - 12 pm central**

This will be a virtual event. The Zoom link will be available on the CCB website prior to the event.



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