

## 6C—NEOLIBERALISM AND ISSUES OF IDENTITY #3

*“I’m Not Sure if I Count”: Academic Librarians with Disabilities in the Neoliberal Workplace*

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The Canadian academic library is under tension between the increasing neoliberal pressures to be more efficient and do more with less and the traditional values of libraries and librarianship which emphasize helping, caring, and a focus on individual needs. This tension is especially problematic for librarians with disabilities, since the ideal, “able” worker in neoliberal terms is defined as efficient and productive, and people with disabilities are seen in our culture as limited and less productive. This presentation aims to bring academic librarians with disabilities into clearer view. It discusses their experiences as workers in the current neoliberal academic library workplace, based on a Canada-wide survey and in-depth interviews done in fall 2016. Topics include positive and negative work experiences encountered by librarians with disabilities, the barriers that they face in the workplace, and the strategies they use to overcome those barriers and create positive professional identities.