**Press Release**

**SAVE Net Neutrality**

**The Critical Pedagogy Summit**

**& Why Net Neutrality is Important for our Democracy**

*Seattle, WA, Dec 1-2, 2017:*

The [Critical Pedagogy Summit](http://ischool.uw.edu/criticalpedagogy) was convened by leaders in our community to have conversations with information professionals, educators and leaders around understanding the issues related to Net Neutrality. The event yielded some of the best and brightest minds thinking about the issues surrounding net neutrality and systems of knowledge.

What: **Critical Pedagogy** is a teaching approach that helps students question and challenge domination and the beliefsand practices that dominate them. It is Social Justice + Education. The **Critical Pedagogy Summit** is coming together to co-teach and co-learn. It is distributed, open & collaborative.

Why: The summit was intended to meet the needs of digital interdisciplinary scholarship and practices. [(View poster.)](https://ischool.uw.edu/sites/default/files/PDFs/Gray%20Hand%20Anti-War%20Poster.pdf)

**Centering Around Net Neutrality:  
A Statement from the Critical Pedagogy Summit, Dec 1, 2017**

**Intended Audience:** Politicians, Educators, Information Professionals, and Leaders

**“**Removing net neutrality benefits the individuals and entities that value maximizing financial profit. History has shown such preferential benefits will negatively impact other individuals and groups – those who are often referred to as ‘marginalized’ or ‘minority’. Maintaining net neutrality is a social equity issue. It is an economic class issue. It is an education and knowledge access issue. All of these issues are known to be tied to systemic oppressions – they ARE the definition of systemic oppression.”

~[Dr. Jeanette Bushnell](https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/473205107/potlatch-a-card-game-about-coast-salish-economics)

“It is a social justice issue.  It is a racial justice issue.  It is a mental health issue.  It is an LGBTQ issue.  It is an issue about systems of knowledges. It is a disability issue. It is an issue about the elderly.  It is an Intellectual Freedom Issue.  It is an issue about religious freedom.  It is an issue about political freedom.  Access to quality information is a public health issue and human rights issue.  IT IS A WEALTH ISSUE and it will affect the most vulnerable in our communities.” ~[Ivette Bayo Urban](http://bayourban.com/)

**ACTION:** Don’t ignore the Net Neutrality issue – **We have until 12/14/2017 to have our voices heard.**

TWO things YOU can do:

1) Please take direct action AND 2) with whatever degrees of freedom and ability you have, share with others to do the same.

**1) Here’s how to fight it in less than 12 seconds:**  
Do you oppose the repeal of net neutrality?

Call the FCC 1.202.418.1000. Leave a message saying "you oppose the repeal of Net Neutrality".

**Here’s how to fight it in less than 60 seconds:**

1. Go to [gofccyourself.com](https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/proceedings?q=name:((17-108))) (the shortcut John Oliver made, which takes you to

the hard-to-find FCC comment page).

1. Click on “express”.
2. Fill out the basic info just like signing a petition and comment that you want to

keep net neutrality as it is.

1. Click to submit, done.

Note: you need to hit the enter/return button once you enter your name on the keyboard or touchscreen. Otherwise, you will get a submission error. (Copied from David Gilberholm, shared by Dr. Jeanette Bushnell).

**Here’s how to fight it by writing to your congress representative also in less than 60 seconds:**

1. Go to <http://cqrcengage.com/ala/home?0(the> shortcut from American Library Association)
2. Click on “**Find your elected officials”**
3. Click on Tell Congress to Save Net Neutrality
4. Fill our basic information just like signing a petition and comment why you personally want to keep net neutrality.

**2) Pass it along!** You’re literally filing a comment in the FCC proceeding – THAT is direct impact!

**Want to learn more?**   
Find out what the [Library and Information](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/telecom/netneutrality) Professionals say about Net Neutrality. “Network neutrality is the concept of online non-discrimination.”

**About the Conveners**

The [Allen Research Commons](http://www.lib.washington.edu/commons) is an interdisciplinary space in which students, faculty, staff can come together to share and discuss every step in the research process. We are a place that’s open to learning and collaboration, and our goal is to connect people with knowledge, advance intellectual discovery, and improve the quality of life. The Research Commons is also an experimental place--a place where outcomes aren’t planned--and through this event we are eager to make new connections and explore what come of them.

[FemTechNet](http://femtechnet.org/) was established in 2012 as a self-organizing scholarly network that investigates topics in feminism and technology. Their first project, in 2013, was an alternative to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) called the Distributed Open Collaborative Course (DOCC). In 2015, the University of Washington had our first two DOCCs, which formally connected our institution with the FTN Network.  FTN is an think tank for the emerging field of interdisciplinary feminist digital scholarship and pedagogy.  “FemTechNet is committed to making the accessible, open, accountable, transformative and transforming educational institutions of our dreams.”

[Social Justice Education Around Technology (SEAT)](http://seatinstitute.com/)

SEAT is a collaboration between Ivette Bayo Urban, Stephanie Torres, Angelina Cortes and Mina Tari who hope to “create an ecosystem in Puget Sound where all people share access to public information and resources – with the choice to actively participate in today’s technological society”.   We believe “every person deserves to have their personal decisions regarding technologies respected”. Though both have been active in and outside of the Information School at the University of Washington, they think more about the role of information and technology in terms of undoing institutional inequities.

**Co-Sponsors**

Allen Research Commons, FemTechNet; UW Information School; UW Human Centered Design & Engineering; UW Simpson Center for the Humanities; UW Geography, UW Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies; SEAT Institute; Center for Communicating Difference and Equity, GO-MAP; Sno-Isle Library, wǝɫǝbʔaltxw Intellectual House; the Indigenous Information Research Group, Pipeline Project, & OMAD.

This story is now yours, do with it what you will.

The ideas presented here are independent of the organizations who co-sponsored the event and are a demonstration the importance of [Intellectual Freedom](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/oif/).

--END--

“Net Neutrality is a small business issue.”

Thank you for your post. Let me be clear, maximizing financial profits is not a problem, per se. However, what libraries offer are core values and professional ethics which define, inform, and guide all professional practice.

CORE VALUES

Access

Confidentiality/Privacy

Democracy

Diversity

Education and Lifelong Learning

Intellectual Freedom

Preservation

The Public Good

Professionalism

Service

Social Responsibility

As a parent, I am going to provide my children with the best source of information I have at my disposal. And I do that freely because I have a responsibility to them and I am invested in their success and vice versa. The problem with repeal of net neutrality is that if I went to the internet to access information, the question might be, how much can you afford. It is the difference between relational accountability and a transaction.

If telecom company's can prioritize certain content vs other internet content, at high speeds - where does that leave the public good? I do not believe in neutral anything, and definitely not neutral internet.

For those interested in finding out more, check out my colleague Dr. Safiya Noble explaining why we should care about commercial spaces dominating our information landscape.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRVZozEEWlE

Telecom companies have different priorities, and despite the fact that the system is already flawed, removal of net neutrality will negatively impact small local businesses, which is the heart of what I love about our community.

Additionally, I think of the additional barriers to being an entrepreneur or starting a new business. Imagine if now in addition to everything else, marketing, planning, financing -if now you need to pay a higher premium in order to reach your potential customers quickly.