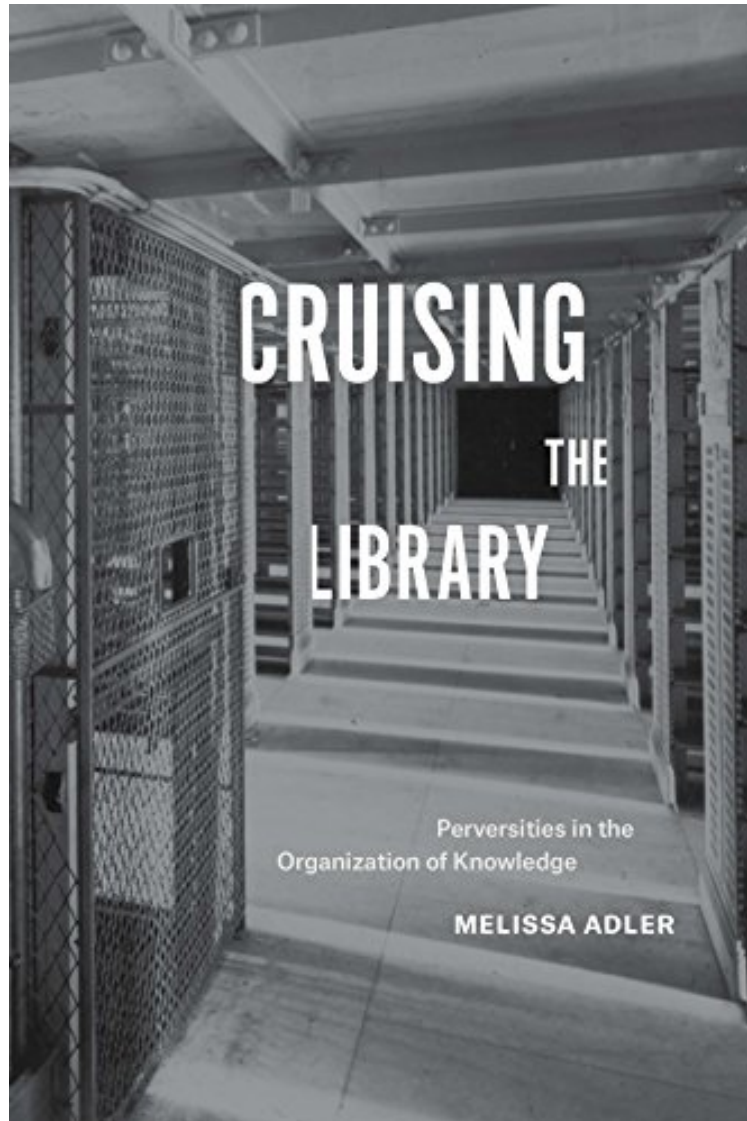


(Read now) Cruising the Library: Perversities in the Organization of Knowledge

Cruising the Library: Perversities in the Organization of Knowledge

Melissa Adler

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Melissa Adler : Cruising the Library: Perversities in the Organization of Knowledge before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cruising the Library: Perversities in the Organization of Knowledge:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerExcelente!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. a wonderfully compelling story and history of classification in the libraryBy ARGJ received a free copy of this book from NetGalley.I want to preface this review by saying I was interested for the organization of knowledge rather than LGBTQ specifics. I am not at all familiar with that literature so this was a bit more challenging

for me than the average reader of this book. Prof Adler writes a wonderfully compelling story and history of classification in the library especially the Library of Congress Classification system and how it shapes and segregates our reading and serves as a reflection of cultural norms that we may no longer in fact support. Truly fascinating read even for those unfamiliar with the body of literature described as a guiding example.² of 6 people found the following review helpful. Cruising the Library by Melissa Adler is a free NetGalley ...By Kristine FisherCruising the Library by Melissa Adler is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in late February. This book examines the sections between HQ76 and HQ71 in the area of Social Sciences at the Library of Congress - books that have been sorted out and archived as perverse or obscene, and really separated into the topics of Paraphilias, Fetish (mostly feet), Neuroses, psychosexual disorders, and sexual deviation. Fear and hysteria have ruled this collection and led for curators to dispose and even burn certain items over time, even if little or no other copies of them exist elsewhere.

Cruising the Library offers a highly innovative analysis of the history of sexuality and categories of sexual perversion through a critical examination of the Library of Congress and its cataloging practices. Taking the publication of Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick's *Epistemologies of the Closet* as emblematic of the Library's inability to account for sexual difference, Melissa Adler embarks upon a detailed critique of how cataloging systems have delimited and proscribed expressions of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and race in a manner that mirrors psychiatric and sociological attempts to pathologize non-normative sexual practices and civil subjects. Taking up a parallel analysis, Adler utilizes Roderick A. Ferguson's *Aberrations in Black* as another example of how the Library of Congress fails to account for, and thereby "buries," difference. She examines the physical space of the Library as one that encourages forms of governmentality as theorized by Michel Foucault while also allowing for its utopian possibilities. Finally, she offers a brief but highly illuminating history of the Delta Collection. Likely established before the turn of the twentieth century and active until its gradual dissolution in the 1960s, the Delta Collection was a secret archive within the Library of Congress that housed materials confiscated by the United States Post Office and other federal agencies. These were materials deemed too obscene for public dissemination or general access. Adler reveals how the Delta Collection was used to regulate difference and squelch dissent in the McCarthy era while also linking it to evolving understandings of so-called perversion in the scientific study of sexual difference. Sophisticated, engrossing, and highly readable, *Cruising the Library* provides us with a critical understanding of library science, an alternative view of discourses around the history of sexuality, and an analysis of the relationship between governmentality and the cataloging of research and information--as well as categories of difference--in American culture.

An original study on an old institution the U.S. Library of Congress. Adlers reading of crucial and cultural theory are accurate and insightful. She presents a practical example of the philosophical power of library documentation as a tool of metaphysics and political economy. (Ronald E. Day author of *Indexing It All: The Subject in the Age of Documentation, Information, and Data*) In this rewarding study, Melissa Adler shows how systems used to classify and catalogue information for libraries operate as mechanisms of control. In particular, she focuses on the ways sexual identities are constructed and disciplined through library practices. Using Eve Sedgwick's work as a paradigmatic test case, and the Library of Congress as a site, including its infamous Delta Collection, she produces a study that is as compelling as it is far-reaching in its implications. A must-read for present and future professionals, but also, a useful text for anyone concerned with official instruments for the production of knowledge. (Johanna Drucker Breslauer Professor, Information Studies, UCLA) Tailor-made for the critlib movement, this demonstration that the Library of Congress is not a neutral space begs one critical question: where should it be shelved? (Kirkus s) This compelling book should be read by everyone who cares about the complex politics of knowledge production and dissemination. Melissa Adlers highly readable account of the fate of queer, non-normative sexual knowledge within the Library of Congress is both startling and important. It speaks to the very real importance of libraries and librarians to contemporary intellectual life. (Janice Radway Northwestern University) About the Author Melissa Adler is Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Kentucky.