

Roundtable

**Activist Librarian:
Experiences & Observations from an Independent Information Consultant
Navigating the Public Health Field**

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ABSTRACT

The current economic and unemployment realities we face today have led me to explore various strategies for my career as a Librarian and Information Specialist. From my start as a Student Employee for the Michigan State University Map Library to where I am today as an Independent Consultant, I have always integrated technology and other effective communication approaches to my work. In recent years, these practices have provided me the opportunity to actively continue to work from my native Puerto Rico. The workshop will look at ways I have used simple and accessible technologies and other strategic ways of communication to influence health and social justice issues at the national and local levels. This interactive workshop session will explore:

- How Librarians can work in their communities and contribute to the national and local public health debate.
- Technological challenges and other realities faced by independent consulting work.
- Information access issues and other realities faced by traditionally marginalized communities.
- Multicultural and multilingual competency issues faced by non-English speaking communities and how those issues limit their voices and access to equal healthcare.
- Various examples of information and technology use by groups like the Indiana Latino Institute, the National Latino Tobacco Control Network, and the Praxis Project.