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Addressing Wicked Problems in Practical Ways: Empowering Ethical Action in Higher Ed and Beyond

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Addressing Wicked Problems in Practical Ways

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead



Gilbert, L. (1981) *Margaret Mead photographed in 1977*. Retrieved from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Margaret_Mead_1977_%C2%A9Lynn_Gilbert.jpg

Addressing Wicked Problems in Practical Ways: Empowering Ethical Action in Higher Ed and Beyond

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Anne Marie Gruber, University of Northern Iowa, Rod Library

Slides: <http://bit.ly/wickedproblemsuni2017slides>

Wicked Problems Defined

- “traditional processes can’t resolve them”
- “innumerable causes”
- “tough to describe”
- “[don’t] have a right answer”
(Camillus, 2008)
- “complex, interlocking, and hard to manage”
(Ramaley, 2013)



inVICus. (2008). *Complicated just like life*. Retrieved from [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Complicated_just_like_life_\(5227673406\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Complicated_just_like_life_(5227673406).jpg)

Professional Engagement



ILA

IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Enriching Iowa for 125 years

Iowa Library Association. (2015). *Iowa Library Association* Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/iowaLibAssoc/photos/a.10151049902604201.441254.92432564200/10153490652259201/?type=1&theater>

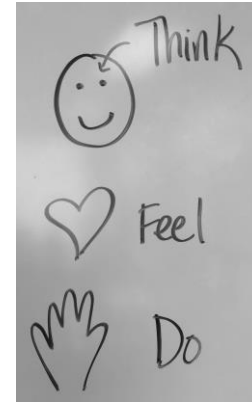
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Lack of awareness
- Creating opportunities
- Existing systems



USCapitol. (2011). *Library of Congress Main Reading Room*. Retrieved from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/uscapitol/6322480339>

Higher education: Service-learning pedagogy

- Societal issues, student misconceptions & lack of diversity experiences, need for professional development/skills
- Best practices: developing mutually beneficial/reciprocal relationships.
- Implications of critical information literacy movement and *Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education*.



Small Group Discussion



Coyot. (2016). *Magnifier glass, magnifying glass*. Retrieved from https://pixabay.com/p-1714172/?no_redirect

Next Steps: How do we walk the walk?

- Mission or strategic plan
- What are you already doing?
- Needs assessment
- Be very prepared when asking for permission and/or ready to ask for forgiveness
- Start somewhere
- Beginner's mind
- What is in your sphere? How can that grow?



9124 images. (2015). *People, crowded, steps, walking*. Retrieved from https://pixabay.com/p-692005/?no_redirect



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Images:

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Presentation Links

Slides: <http://bit.ly/wickedproblemsuni2017slides>

Handout: <http://bit.ly/wickedproblemsuni2017handout>

