

BCALA NEWS

Black Caucus of the American Library Association Inc.



Hayden Confirmed! Dr. Carla Hayden was Confirmed to Serve as the Next Librarian of Congress in July. She is the First Woman, First African-American, and First Person with a Masters in Library Science to Hold the Esteemed Position.

We Congratulate Dr. Hayden on this Barrier-Breaking Accomplishment!!

Summer 2016 | Volume 43 | Issue 3



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CONTENTS

- 06 *News*
- 16 *Featured*
- 26 *Op-Ed*
- 40 *Carla Hayden: Special Section*

Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president of the BCALA. I am honored and humbled and must take a few moments to honor those on whose shoulders I stand.

I am where I am because of my family who love and support me no matter what and because of the bridges I crossed. My middle school principal, Emery Jennings, was a bridge I crossed. I was one of his student office aides in middle school and one day he asked (he called me “Deny”) if I would like to help the librarian. I did and worked in the library two hours each week, and the office three hours each week.

Addie Lee Herbert was my middle school librarian and she introduced me to the world of libraries and librarianship. I worked in libraries through high school, college and grad school at Atlanta University where Virginia Lacy Jones, Penelope Bullock, Casper Jasper and others were bridges I crossed. Aren’t you grateful for the bridges you crossed?

For no man/woman is an island, no one stands alone!

Fast forward a few years, I remember my first ALA conference in New York and the first committee I sat in on was a BCALA committee. That was my introduction to BCALA. I did and still do see BCALA as home, where I started, where I had an opportunity to interact with others that looked like me and shared common problems, concerns, and ideas. When you think about home it is a place where you feel comfortable, a place of love and comfort that always welcomes you with open arms, a place of total acceptance.

That’s BCALA...home. As like home we always want BCALA to be okay and no matter whether we change jobs, retire, serve on ALA Council, as division presidents, committee chairs, or other responsibilities within ALA, we cannot forget about BCALA. It is important to make sure home is okay, BCALA is okay and we stay connected in some way.

Every two years we elect a leader to fulfill the mission of BCALA, create new initiatives and to move toward achieving the organization’s vision. For the next two years, my focus will be “Commitment to Excellence”. Webster defines “Commitment”



**Denyvetta Davis, President,
BCALA 2016 - 2018**

as the state or quality of being dedicated, devotion, allegiance, loyalty. Vince Lombardi said “The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor”. Excellence is the quality of being outstanding or extremely good. Booker T. Washington said, “Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon



way”, and Oprah said, “Let excellence be your brand...When you are excellent, you become unforgettable”.

I do not take the responsibility of being your president lightly. “To whom much is given, much is required.” Much is required of us BCALA! We must build on the foundation created by E.J. Josey and others 46 years ago.

As I share my initiatives, I hope each of you will be listening for how you can become more involved, and how you can give your time, talent, energy as we roll out our directions for the next two years.

For the next two years, I plan to do the following:



1 – SURVEY

Conduct a survey of members and affiliates to determine their needs.



2 – MARKET

Create and implement a marketing plan.



3 – COMMUNICATE

Communicate more effectively with members using innovative and effective technologic and communication tools.



4 – DEVELOP

Expand professional development opportunities for members to include interest circles, webinars, etc. in addition to offerings during annual and midwinter.



5 – REVIEW

Review all aspects of the organization to ensure we are operating efficiently and effectively.

It is going to be a busy and exciting two years. If we work together we can build on our legacy, and can do even better. I am committed to working with all of you to make the BCALA more responsive to the needs of our members, more engaged with the next generation of librarians, and more visible. President Obama said, “Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change we seek”. Can I count on you to stand with me, work with me, and help me?

Peace and Unity,

Call for Proposals: Pushing the Margins: Women of Color and Intersectionality in LIS

Editors: Rose L. Chou and Annie Pho
Publisher: Library Juice Press
<http://libraryjuicepress.com/pushing-the-margins.php>

Literature on diversity in librarianship has mainly focused on recruitment and increasing numbers of librarians of color. This book shifts the focus beyond numbers and instead on the lived experiences of those who are underrepresented in our profession. Using intersectionality as a framework, this edited collection explores the experiences of women of color in libraries. With roots in black feminism and critical race theory, intersectionality studies the ways in which multiple social and cultural identities impact individual experience. Looking at race and gender isolated from each other fails to see the many dimensions in which they intersect and overlap, creating a complicated lived experience that cannot be captured by studying one identity.

Libraries and librarians idealistically portray themselves as egalitarian

and neutral entities that provide information equally to everyone, yet the library as an institution often reflects and perpetuates societal racism, sexism, and additional forms of oppression. Women of color who work in libraries are often placed in the position of balancing the ideal of the library providing good customer service and being an unbiased environment with the lived reality of receiving microaggressions and other forms of harassment on a daily basis from both colleagues and patrons.

Typically these conversations and discussions of our experiences as women of color have happened behind closed doors, within trusted circles of friends. Our hope and intention is that by bringing these conversations into a public space, we will raise consciousness of these experiences and start changing perceptions and expectations.

Proposals may consider the following themes and questions:

- Invisible and emotional labor
- Intersections of multiple identi-

ties, such as sexuality, gender identity, and socioeconomic class

- Leadership, management, promotion, and authority
- Gender presentation and performance
- Treatment of women of color library workers who are either not in librarian positions or do not have a library degree
- Experiences of women of color as library patrons
- How identity affects approaches to collection development
- How does structural oppression reproduce itself in spaces that are touted to be egalitarian and democratic?
- How does one maintain respect in the library when confronted with oppressive treatment or being stereotyped based on one’s race, gender, or other social categories?
- How can library organizations create better work cultures and environments for staff and patrons to exist as their true selves?



- 8 *Call for Program/Workshop Proposals - 2017 National Conference of African American Librarians*
- 9 *Dr. Yvonne J. Chandler Wins 2016 Demco Award*
- 10 *Kelvin Watson Final Presidential Address*
- 11 *Executive Board Minutes Excerpts, ALA 2016*
- 14 *Executive Board Retreat Proceedings*

N E W S

Call for Program/Workshop Proposals - 2017 National Conference of African American Librarians

By Shaundra Walker, Toccara D. Porter and Monica Porter, NCAALX Public Relations & Promotions Committee

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

BCALA is excited to announce the call for program and workshop proposals for its 2017 conference, *Culture Keepers X: "Beyond Library Walls: Innovative Ways to Engage Our Communities,"* that will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. We invite librarians, library staff, MLIS students, and vendors to submit proposal topics that include but are not limited to children and youth services, cultural heritage, health and wellness, leadership and management, creativity and technology. The proposal submission deadline is **September 30, 2016** and the form is available at: <http://goo.gl/fgY2Gs>

Planning for this multi-day event is still underway but it will be a time to showcase notable happenings in the BCALA community including participation from new BCALA president Denyveta Davis and our celebrating the 10th installment of the National Conference of African American Librarians (NCAAL). Also on tap will be educational programs that discuss varying issues and best practices, along with social events that include author luncheons, a bustling exhibits hall featuring the latest in products and services, and networking opportunities. We look forward to keeping you updated on NCAAL10 news.

Questions about the conference? Send your questions to the Programs Committee Chair, Val Bell at Culturekeepers10@gmail.com



Dr. Yvonne J. Chandler Wins 2016 Demco Award

For Immediate Release
July 19, 2016

Media Contact: Jason Alston
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803-822-3075



The winner of this year’s Demco/ALA Black Caucus Award for Excellence in Librarianship is Dr. Yvonne J. Chandler, an associate professor at the University of North Texas Department of Library and Information Sciences. A Birmingham, Alabama native, Dr. Chandler has been a mainstay at UNT, holding a professor post with the school since 1993 according to her LinkedIn profile.

The joint Demco/BCALA award recognizes significant accomplishments that promote the status of African American librarians in the profession, or the development and implementation of resources and services for the African American community. Demco presents the winning librarian with a \$500 check and a commemorative statue, and makes an additional \$500 donation to the BCALA Scholarship Fund in the winner's name. BCALA and Demco have teamed up to bestow this award annually since 1994, when BCALA founder, the late Dr. E.J. Josey, received the honor.

“Dr. Chandler is the ultimate library professional exemplifying excellence and commitment,” said Denyveta Davis, president of BCALA.

In addition to teaching and research excellence, Dr. Chandler has distinguished herself as a professional due to her thorough and successful track record of winning grants for educational training and diversifying the library science field. Chandler is the director of several satellite student cohorts from UNT’s LIS program, including UNT’s “Library Education for the U.S.- Affiliated Pacific” (LEAP) cohort, which is the first distance program outside of the continental U.S. for UNT’s College of Information.

Chandler noted being pleasantly surprised upon hearing her biography read by Demco director of library engagement and solutions Janet Nelson at the awards ceremony during the American Library Association’s annual conference in Orlando, Florida. This year’s winner was not notified prior to the ceremony that she would receive the award.

"I'm floating on air from all the congratulations and good wishes that I have received from friends, colleagues, classmates, and graduates; including more than 121 comments and 325 likes on Facebook,” Chandler said about receiving the award. “I can only say what my friends in Hawaii have taught me to say: Mahalo nui loa (Thank you very much).”

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Learn more about BCALA at www.bcala.org

Kelvin Watson Final Presidential Address

By Kelvin Watson, BCALA Immediate Past President

BCALA family, I am sharing my BCALA President's Report I delivered Sunday, June 26, 2016 at BCALA Membership Meeting.

I am so happy to be with you tonight. Tonight is a night for me to extend a heartfelt thank you for all of the support given to me personally and for your service to BCALA. I also want to acknowledge and recognize contributions made to BCALA and the positive impact our members have had on our profession. Two years ago, I stood before you and delivered a straightforward and direct vision for our organization. It was my hope to invoke a thoughtful approach, with a vision that was both achievable and measurable.

Let me share with you some of our achievements. We have successfully increased membership in all categories with ups and downs to maintain, though we have a long way to go. We executed a profitable 9th National Conference of African American Librarians with the greatest level of fundraising to date and completed the Conference

proceedings. We’ve continued to award scholarships and support ALA Emerging Leaders. BCALA’s literary awards have been enhanced by the addition of self-published e-books for fiction and poetry, and we have new sponsorship and financial support from “Self-e” (a Bibliolabs and Library Journal partnership). Tonight, BCALA will give the first awards, in honor of our colleague Cynthia Hurd, who was gunned down with eight other African Americans in a Charleston, SC. Church. We also raised \$2,500 last night during the fundraiser held at B.B. Kings Restaurant in partnership with EveryLibrary.

Although there have been challenges, I have been remained steadfast and driven in my efforts to move BCALA forward. But, we have much more work to do. We are living the realities of diversity issues and inclusion or the lack thereof in and outside the profession, access to technology in our communities, increasing digital literacy, and being empowered to make and impact change. These

challenges are real and prevalent. For example, Inclusion leads to commitments and we are still far from the needed commitments.

As I prepare for my immediate past presidency post, I am confident that Vice-President/ President Elect Davis will continue to pursue efficiency, creativity and open communication for our organization. I know she shares my commitment for a stronger BCALA. She will continue developing a new strategic plan to strengthen our organization now and in the future. I remain committed to BCALA, our mission, our profession, and to you. Remember change will not come if we wait for others, or the right time. We are the change that we seek and the time is now. For your character and what you do will determine how high you reach. I leave you with this African proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

Peace and blessings,

Kelvin

Executive Board Minutes Excerpts, ALA 2016

By BCALA Executive Board

(The following are excerpts and highlights from the BCALA Executive Board meeting at ALA Annual 2016 in Orlando. The complete minutes are not included due to space constraints)

ATTENDEES:

Kelvin Watson, Denyvetta Davis, Richard Ashby, Vivian Bordeaux, Wanda K. Brown, Elizabeth Brumfield, Michele Fenton, Annie Ford, Makiba Foster, Andrew Sekou Jackson, Kirby McCurtis, Eboni Njoku, Rudolph Clay, Tiffany Duck, Brian Hart and Karen Lemmons

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Stanton Biddle, Carolyn Garnes, Dorothy Guthrie, Eboni Henry, Jos Holman, Gladys Smiley Bell, and Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Sloan Clark, Keshia Garnett, Jody Gray, Julius Jefferson, Em Claire Knowles, LeRoy Robinson

TREASURERS REPORT (Annie Ford)

- Presented the budget as seen in the budget document (handed out at the meeting). Assets as of

June 22, 2015 in all accounts were \$258,086.31. Ending assets as of June 22, 2016 in all accounts is \$254,391.00. Motion by Eboni Henri, seconded by Karen Lemmons.

GUEST: Jody Gray, ALA Director for Diversity, Literacy, Outreach services

- \$800,000 short fall due to unexpected decline in attendees (participants and vendors) at this year’s Annual Conference in Orlando. This will negatively impact budget for ALA next year, possibly affecting this office's budget.
- Office has new mission statement.
- Office received grant from Dollar General that will continue funding for American Dream grant program. This allows libraries to build collections and develop programming for folks who have English as a second language.

BUDGET FINANCE COMMITTEE (Stanton Biddle)

- Presented budget report for 2016-2017. There is a shortfall of about \$13,000. Adjustments need to be made.

- Motion to eliminate print copies by Kirby McCurtis, seconded Eboni Njoku. - Discussion ensued with members in attendance and Executive Board arguing about the importance of print for our retired members. Vivian Bordeaux wants to find out where the retirees are- survey. Vote: Kirby McCurtis Oppose: all others. Motion does not carry.
- Literary Award: Gladys feels like it would be a conflict of interest to ask for money from publishers.
- Motion to add \$8,000 back to publications line of budget from Tiffany Duck, seconded by Richard Ashby. Call for vote: all in favor except Kirby McCurtis.
- Motion to approve budget, taking overage if needed up to \$13,000 from conference account by Wanda Brown, seconded by Vivian Bordeaux. Motion is approved.
- Karen Lemmons suggests a membership dues increase. President Watson tabled conversation for future.
- Andrew asked Membership committee to pursue surveying retired members.

ELECTIONS
(President Kelvin Watson For Dr. Jerome Offord, Jr.)

- 73 members voted out of 591
- Makiba Foster moves that we accept election results from 2016 election. Andrew Jackson seconded.

BYLAWS
(Kirby McCurtis)

- Kelvin is asking Kirby McCurtis to set a date for comments. Kirby set the date as September 1, 2016.
- Andrew Jackson asked Kirby McCurtis to highlight the changes as they are made to bylaws
- Jos Holman shared during his time as Elections Chair when there was an inability to fill the slots in the past, he would come to the board to share that they could not finish
- Richard Ashby makes the motion to remove the categorized board seats. Brian seconds. Discussion continues around removing the categories. Makiba Foster reminded that the intent was to get fresh blood. Vote: All in favor, motion carried.
- Vivian Bordeaux brought up reducing the number of board members.
- Wanda Brown stated that reducing numbers reduced the impact that the association has
- Eboni stated that even though she isn't going to be on the board she will still be involved

- One reason why it was suggested that we reduce the board is because it is so hard to get people to run Vice President Denyvetta Davis shared
- Em Claire Knowles reminded people that the board is a good way of succession planning. Striving to connect with young professionals is important
- Tiffany Duck suggested a new member's round table for BCALA
- Makiba Foster asked whether this model for election and board building works. What if someone is new and wants to be a leader but is not a member of BCALA? Can they not serve on the board?
- Richard Ashby and Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin sharing that we need to market ourselves and organization better
- Wanda Board says it is important that people know the history of the organization before they can lead. Advocate for person to have had some experience with the board before rising up to leadership

ARCHIVES
(President Kelvin Watson)

- Our partnership and conversations with the current dean at NCCU SLIS are now finished at her request, and progress has not been made. At this point BCALA will wait until a new Dean is hired at North Carolina Central University in their LIS program, and try to bring another conversation. Maybe with the new Dean the situation would

- improve and the conditions if the archive would improve.
- It will be another discussion in January. All the legal ground work is done for what we want and how we want it
 - The legal team at Queens got involved with North Carolina Central and are disappointed in the outcome
 - BCALA is working on MOU between Queens Library to digitize what we do have in our possession
 - The only light in this situation is that the University does not have a deed of gift for the BCALA archives except EJ Josey's materials. This means we can get them away because they don't own anything. There is stuff from other members, notably retirees that sent stuff as well.
 - Board needs to decide where we are going to put our archive. Perhaps ALA archives. Gladys Smiley Bell said no to Hampton. How about Winston Salem State, Langston Hughes, or Clark Atlanta? We need to solicit institutions.
- WEBSITE
(Keshia Garnett)
- Website is moving much faster. Wordpress move was successful
 - 60 days ago the website began taking people's payments and not posting jobs. Looking for a new vendor to take over the money portions
 - We have had this same website

- for 6 years; we need a refresh
- President Kelvin Watson will reconstitute the tech team.
 - Keshia discussed improvements need for the NCAAL registration.
 - Elizabeth Brumfield asked if it was mobile compatible. Yes, it is. Can we link up with vendors at ALA to connect with conference? Matter should be pursued
 - Brian Hart asked for there to be a reduction in the numbers of clicks to renew membership. Conversation ensued about Memberize and the pros and cons of that system

NCAAL 11 SURVEY
(Vice President Denyvetta Davis)

- Jos Holman and Diane Covington did a survey for members at ALA Midwinter
- Denyvetta recommends 2020 for the next conference after 2017.
- Location recommendations are vast

STRATEGIC PLAN
(Vice President Denyvetta Davis)

- Emailed a copy and had a print copy for board members
- July 15 deadline for providing feedback on the plan
- President Kelvin Watson talked about programming. When thinking about programming we need to make sure it is tied to our strategic plan
- \$800 donated by board members

- for Black Lives Matter programming.
- Richard Ashby mentioned support staff as an important group to connect with
 - President Kelvin Watson starting to build committee for elections next year
 - Publications: August 10 deadline for BCALA News articles. Sticking with the same vendor

MEMBERSHIP
(Rudolph Clay)

- Flat for the last 3 years. As of June 23, 2016 we have 491 members
- Rudy had cards to hand out to get folks interested in BCALA
- Memberize is clunky but there are lots of good things about it.
- Almost out of BCALA pins from the 2008 order. Rudy will order more
- President Kelvin Watson brought up affiliate chapter presidents conversation. If you are a member of the affiliate you can join the national organization at a reduced rate of \$25. Discussion ensued.
- Richard Ashby made a motion that members of the affiliate organization can join national organization at a reduced rate. This is for new BCALA members. Kirby seconded. Motion passes

NCAAL 10
(Dorothy Guthrie and Carolyn Garnes)

- ALA will handle all registration

- First site visit happened in April
- The hotel is in affluent area so food is proving difficult to secure at an affordable rate
- The vendors can't get in until Thursday morning of conference. This means that Thursday morning will be hectic
- Fundraising committee chair is working on his package. Local arrangement committee working very hard
- Call for proposals have been put on the website
- Carolyn and Dorothy are coordinating special programs to assist the programming committee

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Visitor Sloan Clark, a librarian from Atlanta, asked about mentoring. We don't have one formally anymore. More informal
- Sloan Clark also asked if we have an HBCU alliance. No formal connection or relationship
- Dorothy Guthrie mentioned Black Lives Matter and Links Incorporation. Richard Ashby will make that connection as he is spearheading Black Lives matter programming for BCALA
- Elizabeth Brumfield will be honored as Distance Learning librarian of the year

Executive Board Retreat Proceedings

By BCALA Executive Board

(From Executive Board Retreat during ALA Annual 2016)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

ATTENDEES:

Kelvin Watson, Denyvetta Davis, Richard Ashby, Vivian Bordeaux, Elizabeth Brumfield, , Michele Fenton, Annie Ford, Andrew Sekou Jackson, Kirby McCurtis, Eboni Njoku and Karen Lemmons

ALA TASK FORCE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION
(Andrew Sekou Jackson)

- Final report will be presented at this conference
- Black armband is silent protest in memory of Trayvon Martin and Pulse club victims. It is a symbol of protest and a way to show solidarity.

STRATEGIC PLAN
(Denyvetta Davis)

- The final product is a combination of information received from a variety of stakeholders
- There will be more information about organizational aspects of BCALA than previous plan
- If you have any questions or concerns please send to Denyvetta

- Decisions will be made on who needs to do what after all Exec. Board members read and digest. Denyvetta wants to make sure all of us are on board

- Implementation is the big piece

BYLAWS
(Kirby McCurtis)

- For tomorrow’s meeting bring hard copies and will resend electronic copies so everyone is on the same page
- Goal date is for members to vote in January at Midwinter

ELECTION
(Kelvin Watson for Dr. Jerome Offord, Jr.)

- The election results need to be voted and ratified tomorrow during the Executive Board meeting
- A discussion followed about why there were issues with the current system. Because the Executive Board didn't clarify certain roles, left things open for interpretation
- President Kelvin Watson posed the question about slate categories. Eboni Njuko shared about the intent (take away cliques), Kelvin shared about the desire to decrease number of board members (plan backfired

and there became more board members). Richard Ashby didn't think committee checked out eligibility requirements. President Kelvin Watson will do chair the Election Committee next year and doesn't want things open for interpretation

- The specifications need to be in the bylaws; however, since they didn't go before the board they are not technically official. Meaning we can move back from the slate specifications for next election

- Must clarify the intent and put it in writing

- Someone can propose a change to election at the Executive Board meeting tomorrow

AFFILIATES
(Andrew Jackson)

- President Kelvin Watson and Andrew Jackson met with an Affiliates group on the East Coast. There was a discussion about a potential for joint membership
- An incentive to encourage Affiliate members to join BCALA national would be to offer a flat rate for joining during a promotional time period. This would increase mem-

bership on national level, and also get affiliates to feel more involved

- Should it be retroactive?

BUDGET
(President Kelvin Watson)

- The budget has \$5000 difference

- Last year we took money from the reserves. But we can't do that forever. We need to take a look at what we support. Kelvin started a conversation about where our funds are going and asked questions about potential areas to cut costs. Can we support two Emerging Leaders? Can we still support the literary awards at the same cost? Can publishers support this? Reading is Grand is unfunded. What can we do about this?

- The reality is we don't have revenue coming in

- The website is out of date, but it is the revenue generator. We need to update it

- Action: ask Gladys tomorrow what we can ask of the publishers. We need to reexamine our request to them; if your book wins, then you must purchase stickers

- \$15,000 to print and Mail newsletter; we must decide tomorrow if we will cease all physical printing

- Karen Lemmons will serve as chair of the Reading Is Grand Award Committee and will pursue AARP and Dollar General for funding the Reading is Grand Initiative.

ARCHIVES
(President Kelvin Watson)

- Dean of library school North Carolina Central has broken the previous agreement with Queens Library and there will be no moving forward at this time

- It appears that the best course of action is to wait for her retirement (July 1) and her new successor to be named

- Discussion followed about perhaps needing to find another location for the BCALA archives and future documents. Another HBCU? ALA archives?



Current BCALA Executive Board

Denyvetta Davis, President

Richard Ashby, Vice-President/President Elect

Kelvin Watson, Immediate Past President

Kirby McCurtis, Secretary

Wanda Brown, Treasurer

Jason Alston

Vivian Bordeaux

Elizabeth Jean Brumfield

Brian Hart

Jos Holman

Andrew P. Jackson

Sammie Johnson

Bradley Kuykendall

Karen Lemmons

Dominique Luster

Kim McNeil-Capers

Fayrene Muhammad

Eboni Njoku

FEATURED

- 18 *From the Black Archives: Black Archives Now – Collaboration, Access, and Use*
- 21 *Donations Support Youth Cultural Club and Collection at Quinby Street Resource Center*
- 22 *Libraries 4 Black Lives*

From the Black Archives: Black Archives Now - Collaboration, Access, and Use

By Sarah Carlson and Cecily Marcus

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Editor's Note: The following is the latest installment of the BCALA News recurring series, "From the Black Archives", which attempts to be inclusive of archives-related LIS work.

Every seat was filled at Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library’s Teaching and Learning Studio. On August 1, attendees of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Ga. joined local scholars, students, and members of the library community for a pre-conference event at Emory University to discuss the state of Black archives today.

Sponsored by *Umbra: Search African American History* (umbrasearch.org and [embeddable widget – www.umbrasearch.org/widgets](http://embeddablewidget-umbrasearch.org/widgets)) - a freely available search tool that brings together over 400,000 Black history and culture

materials from more than 1,000 U.S. libraries, archives, and cultural heritage organizations – and co-hosted by Emory University’s Rose Library, this was an afternoon of reflection on the role of Black archives in representing our past and present and activating new forms of scholarship for the future.

Representatives from Atlanta University Center, Auburn Avenue Research Library, Emory University, the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum, Spelman College, and *Umbra: Search African American History* shared diverse institutional perspectives in a round of lightning talks that covered current projects, successes, challenges. Moderated by Dr. Meredith Evans, director of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum, an open conversation followed to explore issues more deeply, from digitization efforts to donor relations and collection building to supporting undergraduate research.



Panelists from right to left: Holly Smith (Spelman College), Derek Mosley (AARL), Meredith Evans (Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum), Andrea Jackson (AUC), Cecily Marcus (Umbra), Dorothy Berry (Umbra). Not pictured: Pellom McDaniels, III (Emory University)

COLLABORATION

Andrea Jackson, head of the Archives Research Center at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library (AUC) highlighted the importance of networked collaboration with the AUC Digital Collections (<http://www.auctr.edu/find-materials/digital-collections/>), especially the HBCU Library Alliance Digital Collection (<http://hbcudigitallibrary.auctr.edu/cdm/>),

which includes over 20 HBCU institutional digital collections. She also discussed several innovative projects that the AUC has taken on in the past several years, including a collaboration with [Cornell University and a 2015 NEH-funded effort \(http://www.auctr.edu/news/neh/\)](http://www.auctr.edu/news/neh/) to describe, digitize, and prepare for research access fourteen collections of rare materials on African-American religion.

Holly Smith, college archivist at Spelman College, discussed how a national digital collection like *Umbra* enables research beyond a single collection or institution: though only a handful of materials from Spelman are digitized and available online, Spelman’s history is found in collections from across the country ([from Atlanta History Center to University of Massachusetts Amherst - https://www.umbrasearch.org/atalog?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search_field=all_fields&q=spelma+college](http://www.umbrasearch.org/atalog?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search_field=all_fields&q=spelma+college)). Openness and collaboration across institutions can place collections side by side to create a national digital corpus of materials that facilitates broad and innovative use.

USE

Dr. Pellom McDaniels, III, faculty curator of African American Collections and assistant professor of African American Studies at Emory University, emphasized the importance of engaging undergraduates with archives and primary source research (a student-curated exhibit “[Resisting Racism: From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter](http://web.library.emory.edu/exhibitions/current-exhibits/resisting-racism-class-exhibit-troka.html)” <http://web.library.emory.edu/exhibitions/current-exhibits/resisting-racism-class-exhibit-troka.html>, is currently on display in the Rose Library), and efforts to bring the broader community into the library through exhibits and other events.

Just days before the grand reopening of the newly renovated Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History (<http://www.afpls.org/aarl>), archivist Derek Mosley shared the unique perspective of working in a special collection that is part of the public library system. With strengths in the Southern Civil Rights Movement, African and African American history and literature, and Atlanta history, Auburn Avenue already contributes over 750 materials (https://www.umbrasearch.org/catalog?f%5BdataProvider_ssi%5D%5B%5D=Auburn+Avenue+Resea

[rch+Library+on+African+American+History+and+Culture](http://web.library.emory.edu/exhibitions/current-exhibits/resisting-racism-class-exhibit-troka.html)) to *Umbra* through the Digital Library of Georgia, and continues digitization efforts to make their robust photographs and prints collection further accessible.

ACCESS

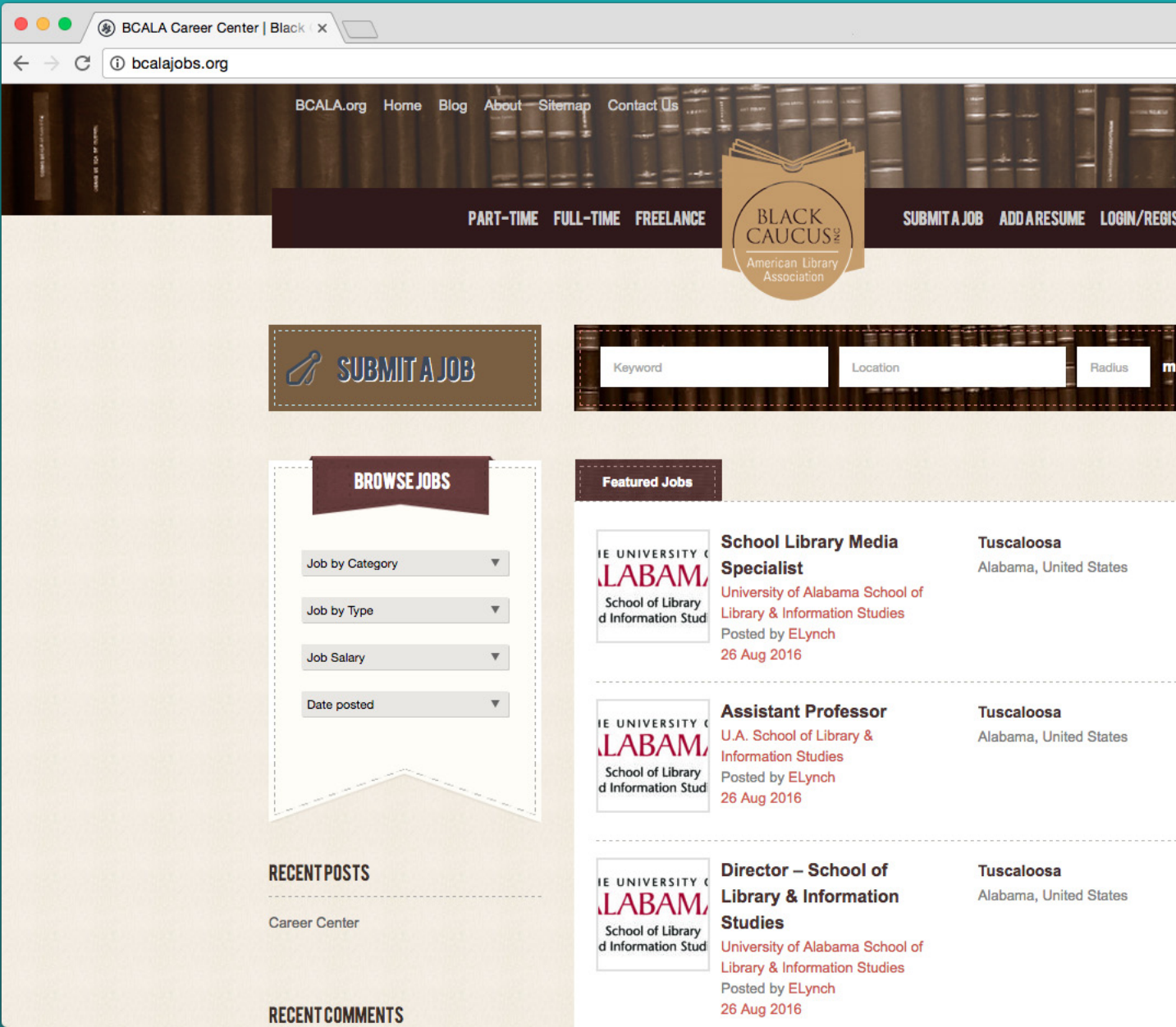
Dorothy Berry, *Umbra* content and metadata project manager at the University of Minnesota, described the conundrum of archival description and its relationship to discovery and access in the context of a large-scale digitization and national aggregation project. Dr. Meredith Evans discussed the future of Black collections, from print to digital, and the complexities— from trust to copyright to legal and ethical impact—of documenting social justice movements and other current events, which is the focus of a current initiative, [Documenting the Now \(http://www.docnow.io/\)](http://www.docnow.io/), funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Follow [@UmbraSearch](https://twitter.com/UmbraSearch) for more news and events from *Umbra: Search African American History*, and [#BlackArchivesNow](https://twitter.com/BlackArchivesNow) to continue the conversation.

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Donations Support Youth Cultural Club and Collection at Quinby Street Resource Center

By Roland Barksdale-Hall, Quinby Street Resource Center

Andrew P. Jackson, retiring director, Langston Hughes Library and Cultural Center, Queens, New York, has selected the Quinby Street Resource Center as one of the recipients of his vast personal cultural collection. Over a career of teaching and professional library service he built a collection with a strong emphasis on African American culture and life. His decision was made after reading the article, “Book Award is King at Quinby Street: Grant Brings Collection to Library,” appearing on the front page of the July 12, 2016 edition of the Sharon Herald.

“I am so glad my books can have a new life and fill the need of your library and your community.” Jackson said.

“We appreciate the generosity of Mr. Jackson. His ongoing donation indeed will support our literacy efforts, cultural clubs and enrich our community for generations to come.” Roland Barksdale-Hall, Quinby Street Resource Center



library director said and expressed personal satisfaction.

“I’ve donated portions of my collection to two other library projects, and this is part of the cycle our books and other materials should take, just like our lives.” Jackson reflected.

“We simply would not be able to acquire these types of materials,

if it were not for groups like the American Library Association Coretta Scott King Book Donation Grant and distinguished librarian leaders like Mr. Jackson and publishers like Tony Rose.”

Rose donated copies of the African American Family Guide to Tracing Our Roots, Healing, Understanding & Restoring Our Families, which were used by Barksdale-Hall in

teaching a popular Tracing Your Roots workshop. Rose is a BCALA member and publisher of Amber Communications. He also donated copies of his autobiography, *America the Black Point of View*, which tells the story of his youth in Boston’s public housing.

“We need more Tony Roses and Andrew P. Jacksons in our community.” Barksdale-Hall noted reading does make a difference. He pointed to the success of a summer book giveaway for youth at the Chavers Center, our graduates attending college and other success stories he has witnessed.

Barksdale-Hall uses books in storytelling. He was the keynote storyteller for the playgroup graduation. Graduates actively participated in the program. Play group graduates will be starting kindergarten in the fall.

Coworkers threw Barksdale-Hall a surprise birthday party in a newly decorated library. Barksdale-Hall is thankful. He recognizes his success is due in a large part to community connections and coworkers. He has a book chapter, “Collaboration Fits the Bill for Best Practices in Programming for Public Housing Residents” in *The Library’s Role in Supporting*

Financial Literacy for Patrons.

Mr. Jackson is a past president of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. Through Mr. Jackson’s efforts Melaine Small, has expressed an interest in donating materials for youth in our community. The donation to Quinby Street Resource Center from the personal collection of Andrew P. Jackson includes books, DVDs, CDs, videos and a colorful “Celebrate African American History” banner. The Quinby Street Resource Center is a 2016 recipient of the American Library Association Coretta Scott King Book Donation Grant Award.

Over the next four days #Libraries4BlackLives was born: a website (<http://libraries4blacklives.org/>), a hashtag (<https://twitter.com/libs4blacklives>), a call to conscience and action (<http://action.movementforblacklives.org/>). We aimed to create a dynamic forum for resource sharing that could deepen racial equity work in our libraries and communities. We reached 4,000 people in one week. Thousands more since. The main feedback so far: resounding agreement that Black Lives Matter, and vocal thanks for the tools and invitation to engage in responsive librarianship.

Now it’s time to develop those resources, share tools and engage. We urge others to join us. On August 26 we will be hosting a national phone call. We will be asking: What do you need to engage in this work locally and nationally? We will additionally discuss the Movement for Black Lives platform (See “A Vision for Black Lives” <https://policy.m4bl.org/>) and its application to libraries, archives and librarianship.

WHY MAKE STATEMENTS? *The Truth About Library Tradition #L4BL* is a call to conscience, to action and to responsibility for racial equity and social justice. To some this will seem too controversial. To others, it will reinforce the pride we feel in a profession with strong ethical standards and a long history

of progressive stands. We must acknowledge that this tension exists both in librarianship and in academia.

Storytime Underground recently took a decisive stand in *School Library Journal*, calling out the fallacy of neutrality and calling the profession to take a “critical eye to the prejudices embedded in the profession’s past and used our collective political power to fight against censorship, defend patron privacy, and create inclusive spaces for all members of our communities.” Another recent article (<http://www.aaihs.org/the-black-intellectual-tradition-and-the-myth-of-objectivity/>) on Black intellectual tradition explores W.E.B. DuBois’ awakening to the futility of objectivity. “Du Bois’s disavowal of the idea of objectivity was also a condemnation of its racialized use.”

“As Du Bois would admit in his autobiographical writings, it made no difference if one was a ‘calm, cool, and detached’ academic while [lynching victim] Hose’s burnt remains sat in a storefront window. His killers had abandoned objectivity a long time ago.”

Just as DuBois notes the impossibility of remaining objective in the face of dehumanization, there is a certainly impossibility in the idea of a neutral library professional if libraries are also centers for civic engagement and community building. There is

actual harm in abiding “community standards” that privilege the powerful at the expense of the powerless.

So, what do we do when our community is not ready or willing to embrace social change? As one recent article (<http://www.vox.com/2016/7/24/12236580/black-lives-matter-support-civil-rights-movement>) pointed out, the civil rights movement was considered too confrontational in its day too. After the March on Washington and Mississippi Freedom Summer, the American National Election Studies (<http://electionstudies.org/studypages/1964prepost/n1964.pdf>) found that “57 percent of Americans in 1964 said most of black people’s actions during the civil rights movement in the most recent year were violent.... And a majority... believed that black people’s actions for the movement hurt their own cause.”

Librarians during this era had a choice to make: act as gatekeepers for prevailing (white) community standards and power, or break ranks and use both influence and resources to be part of a movement for civil rights and social change. Today, we name awards after librarians who did the latter (like E.J. Josey, Margaret Edwards and Ruth Brown). Yet, we talk less about the way we were complicit in contemporary segregation and institutional racism.

Libraries 4 Black Lives

By Jessica Anne Bratt, Amita Lonial, Sarah Lawton and Amy Sonnie

LAUNCHING #LIBRARIES4BLACKLIVES

In a single twenty-four hour period, we watched the murders of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile unfold. We were reminded of the countless acts of brutality against Black people, seen and unseen, recent and past. Relentless.

Over the next few days, we grieved with loved ones, took action in our communities, and showed up at our

respective libraries (in California, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan) asking once again: What does our community need from us in this moment? All four of us felt the answer went beyond book lists and displays on institutional racism and policing reforms (though we’ve created those too). Our communities were crying out for more and we’d been inspired by Black Lives Matter solidarity statements from medical students

(<http://www.whitecoats4blacklives.org/about>) and museum workers (<https://incluseum.com/2014/12/22/joint-statement-from-museum-bloggers-colleagues-on-ferguson-related-events/>). Amita Lonial emailed us – three library colleagues working to put racial equity into practice – suggesting a library statement supporting the Movement for Black Lives. We all agreed this was long overdue.



@Libs4BlackLives

We need to talk about this history now. We need to ask how and where we have opportunities now to uphold the principles of our profession while more boldly embracing our role as change agents and partners in dismantling institutional racism and other forms of oppression.

We have struggled to define ourselves as a profession in relationship/ response to all historical social change movements. We have to face that struggle now. And L4BL is a clear clarion call that we should not sit this one out under the cover of neutrality and community comfort

CHOOSING THE SIDE OF LOVE AND JUSTICE
Black Lives Matter to us. As Black people, as family, as neighbors, public servants and human beings.

We are proud to see so many libraries showing support for Black Lives Matter through booklists, programs and passionate dialogue about how neutrality in libraries is not only unattainable but immoral in the face of injustice. We simply must remember that the movement

made the space for those conversations possible.

Where we go from here is up to all of us. We urge libraries to read the “The Movement for Black Lives” platform and to begin conversations about its meaning for our work, communities and collaborations.

The Movement for Black Lives is a national network of nearly 50 organizations. In the aftermath of Ferguson, these organizations began working together to articulate a comprehensive agenda. They convened focus groups, economic experts, lawyers and a variety of other collaborators to capture the aspirations of struggling local communities.

The platform is not perfect and is not utopian. Instead it is a living document that exists to inspire local communities to dialogue and action. It is a tool to engage Black communities in defining solutions to problems along with a vision for peace. The platform acknowledges struggles other communities of color face and the problem of poverty, environmental devastation and more.

It is a resource to help connect people and elevate a shared set of priorities. Let us, as a profession and as community leaders, use it as a tool to engage our communities in learning and discussion.

Library workers can and should support the Movement for Black Lives and organize employee and community dialogues to consider where the movement’s platform aligns with or pushes our work forward. We must view this work not as taking sides, but as supporting core principles of inclusion and equity. These values are key underpinnings for library services and are necessary prerequisites for a democratic society.

We launched this network to support library workers who want to take responsibility for creating the world we all deserve. Our hope moving forward is to create an ongoing digital space where library workers can share resources and strategies for engaging their communities and institutions on these issues.

Join us.

Libraries4blacklives.org
[@lib4blacklives](https://twitter.com/lib4blacklives)

 Continued from page 5

This is not an exhaustive list. Proposals are welcome from anyone involved in libraries, archives, and information science. Contributions from people of color, those who belong to communities underrepresented in LIS, and those who work in school and public libraries are strongly encouraged. Essays that are straightforward scholarship are invited and welcome, as are more hybrid or creative approaches that incorporate scholarly writing with personal narrative, illustrations, graphics, or other strategies consistent with feminist and antiracist methodologies.

This collection will contain papers and essays of approximately 2000 – 5000 words. Proposals should include an abstract of no more than 500 words describing the proposed contribution and a short biographical statement. Send proposals to pushingthemargins@gmail.com by October 28, 2016.



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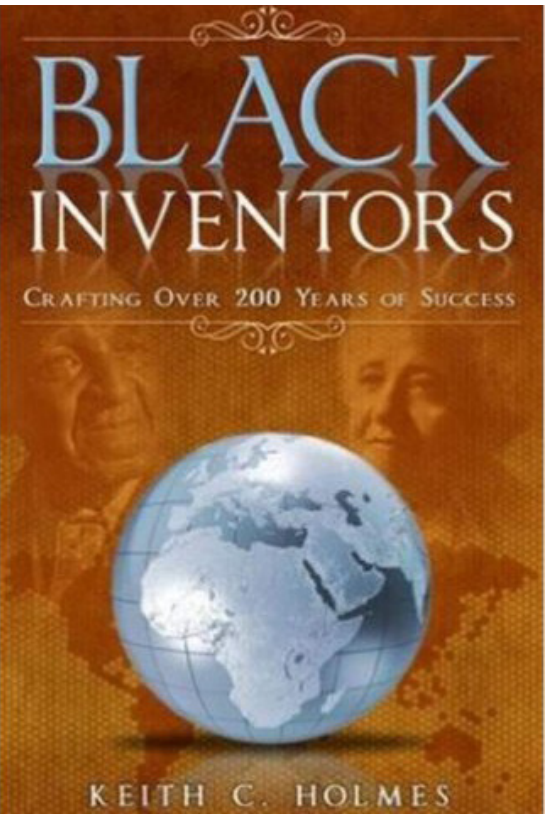
- 28 *Book Review: Black Inventors: Crafting Over 200 Years of Success*
- 29 *Expanding on the Diversity Residency Concept*
- 31 *Book Review - NOBODY: Causalities of America's War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond*
- 33 *Youth Corner Book Review: The Boy in the Black Suit*
- 34 *Information Literacy Skills For Seniors Transitioning to Incoming Freshmen*
- 36 *Book Review: The King Inside: Practical Advice for Young African American Males*
- 37 *Youth Corner Book Review - X: a Novel*
- 38 *ESSA, School Libraries, and What it Means to/for Me*

O P - E D

Book Review: Black Inventors: Crafting Over 200 Years of Success

By Christine Iko

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Editor's note: BCALA News typically only allows reviews for books published or republished within the last three years, but allowed this review due to the subject matter and potential usefulness as a reference resource.



“Black Inventors: Crafting Over 200 Years of Success” (2008) highlights contributions of people of African descent throughout the world. The bulk of the book is comprised of sections of sentence length accounts, arranged according to the inventor's state or country of residence. A typical account includes the inventor's name, a brief description of the invention, and the year the patent was granted; however, sometimes more biographical details or an explanation of the utility of the invention are included.

The organization of these accounts by location, opposed to chronologically or thematically, is a drawback, inherently hurting the book’s ability to create a coherent narrative about a tradition or legacy of inventors of African descent as the title might suggest. A recommended alternative is “Black Inventors from Africa to America” (1995), by C.R. Gibbs, which offers a more thorough account of ancient African innovations and inventions among other conventions

(e.g. images of people and patents, lengthier biographical profiles, etc.); however, you would be forfeiting contemporary accounts, particularly of Blacks outside of the United States.

Accordingly, the organization of “Black Inventors: Crafting Over 200 Years of Success” is a reflection of the book's strength, which is its uncommon approach in featuring inventors from Africa and its diaspora. One would be hard-pressed to find a release that offers similar content, perhaps because compilation of this information is presumably tedious, as governing bodies (e.g. U.S. Patent and Trademark Office) do not include race or ethnicity in their records. Author Keith C. Holmes has reportedly been conducting the research that is the foundation of this book since 1988.

While the variety of the aforementioned accounts make the title highly browsable, a reader who is looking for analyses may get frustrated that the book lacks a sense of order. For example, the section titled "Black

Inventors at Colleges and Universities in the United States" begins pretty succinctly, ultimately imparting that "sixty-eight HBCU attendees and graduates have produced over seven hundred patents", followed by two tables that show the institutional affiliations of select inventors along with the number of patents they are credited with. However, the section oddly ends in a synopsis that begins "Black inventors in the United States come from geographically diverse areas: small towns, medium-sized and major cities," and goes on to reflect

on the scale of Black inventorship of 20th century Boley, Oklahoma in comparison to the rest of the United States.

Unfortunately, not even the lengthy table of contents will help the reader avoid the book's fluff, which is interspersed with interesting facts. However, Holmes’ accessible language and conversational tone makes it bearable to carry on, as do unanticipated finds, such as the portion of the book which focuses on trademarks, especially in the industries of video games, sports,

music, and broadcasting (television and radio).

A few closing notes: cosmetically, the only images included are of maps that have blurry, largely illegible print. An index of featured inventors is included, as are a "Bibliography and Works Cited" and "Recommended Reading List." 179 pages. B&W. ISBN 978-0-9799573-0-7 Publisher: Global Black Inventor Research Projects, Inc. –Christine I., MLIS, MD State Library Resource Center



Expanding on the Diversity Residency Concept

By Jason Alston, University of South Carolina

I hope to soon be defending my dissertation. The subject of my dissertation is diversity residency programs and I can’t wait to share my findings with the BCALA family and greater librarian community. First, just very quickly, not everyone knows what a diversity residency is. The Association for Library & Information Science Education (ALISE) has defined a residency as, “post-degree work experience designed as an

entry level program for professionals who have recently received the MLS degree from a program accredited by the American Library Association.”

Not all library residencies are “diversity residencies”; schools such as North Carolina State University have post-MLS residency programs that don’t specifically include a diversity component. Residencies that are deemed “diversity

residencies” do tend to have some form of diversity component. Typically, either the person hired into the diversity residency is an ethnic minority and/or the person hired as the resident is expected to perform some diversity-related task during the residency. The aim of diversity residencies tends to be to recruit and retain ethnic minorities in American libraries, where such practitioners are underrepresented in comparison

 Continued from previous page

to the percentage of the total U.S. population that they comprise.

Diversity residencies vary from host institution to host institution. Some diversity residencies require capstones while others do not. Some diversity residencies rotate the resident through different departments at the host library while others do not. Residencies are temporary appointments, usually lasting 1-3 years. It should be noted though, that all properly termed diversity residencies are for professionals who have already earned an MLS degree.

But I would still like to see the idea of diversity residencies and the idea of fellowships for ethnic minority professionals in general expanded a bit. Here are four things that I hope to see become more popular.

*** DIVERSITY RESIDENCIES AT PUBLIC LIBRARIES.**

The active diversity residencies that I am aware of are hosted by academic libraries (the Online Computer Library Center is a non-library entity that at least at one point hosted a diversity residency program for LIS professionals). But to my knowledge there are no active diversity residencies at any American public libraries. I would love to see this change. One benefit to institutions that host diversity residencies is that they are bringing aboard a new

person every 2-3 years who is a new professional with new ideas, insights and often technological savvy that can infuse the organization with energy and innovation. These people are likely to be able to help public libraries discover new and better ways to be vital to their patrons. Especially for public libraries that serve largely Black and Latino populations but employ largely white practitioners, hosting diversity residencies would be a way to think about collections and services offered and try to mine their residents for ideas for improvement. Efforts must be cooperative and collaborative, however; new professionals shouldn't be expected to come in and quickly "fix" institutional shortcomings.

*** DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT/ ADMINISTRATIVE FELLOWSHIPS.**

Technically, because residencies are "entry-level", my idea here would not be properly termed a "residency". However, after talking with one of my research participants during my dissertation data gathering, I couldn't help but like her ideas surrounding fellowships specifically for ethnic minorities that would identify professionals of color who demonstrate potential for management or administrative work and teach these professionals how to become effective managers or administrators. My personal opinion is that residencies and fellowships

should put professionals into positions they may not have gotten to as quickly otherwise. Those who undertake residencies or fellowships and then settle into positions that they may have acquired easily without those experiences may open planners to questions on whether or not the residencies/ fellowships are truly transformative. But there are going to be situations where diversity residents are going to settle into permanent jobs with a more entry-level flavor. Those who complete management or administrative fellowships, however, will already have a good deal of professional experience and may be more likely to find themselves in management positions soon after completing the fellowship since they've already demonstrated the drive, determination and the loyalty to the profession.

*** RESIDENCIES FOR THE DISABLED OR DIFFERENTLY ABLED.**

One experience I will never forget is having an LIS student question why she was not eligible for diversity positions when she had a severe physical disability that put her at a disadvantage as far as seeking employment. The differently abled are a relevant population when we talk about diversity and serving a diverse patron base. I personally think the differently abled are in

prime position to help institutions consider access barriers they'd never considered before. I also think the differently abled can challenge some negative institutionalized norms at institutions because being a good and understanding coworker to a differently abled colleague requires patience and a desire to be accommodating.

*** CONTINUING GRADUATE EDUCATION RESIDENCIES.**

If we want librarians to have a second masters, we're hosting them at universities, and we can't pay what some who have two masters degrees think they should earn, then why not at least make achieving that

second master's degree free and something the resident does on the job? In these situations, there'd be no rotating. The residents would spend their full 2-3 year term in reference and instruction and would learn departmental liaison duties. During this residency term, the librarian would be expected to learn how to be a reference and instruction librarian but would also be expected to complete a master's level program at the host institution. The goal here, of course, would be to produce a professional who really understands the coursework, research methods, and upper-level theory of the discipline they're earning this degree in. The host library may have to pay

this practitioner a bit less in order to pay for tuition for this resident, but I see this as a great way to build bridges with academic units, and this may be a good way to get librarians with solid backgrounds in non-humanities and non-social science fields such as the hard sciences, nursing, public administration, law, and business. Because the resident is not rotating into various departments, they will have the time to be full time employees and students; class attendance would probably be done on the clock, but homework on the resident's own time.



Book Review - NOBODY: Causalities of America's War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond

By Dominique Luster, Teenie Harris Archivist, Carnegie Museum of Art

BY: *Dr. Marc Lamont Hill*
RELEASE DATE: *August 2, 2016*
Michael Brown. Jordan Davis. Eric Garner. Sandra Blank. Walter Scott.

Freddie Gray. Tamir Rice. Trayvon Martin. **NOBODY.** “*This is a book about what it means to be nobody*” (Hill).

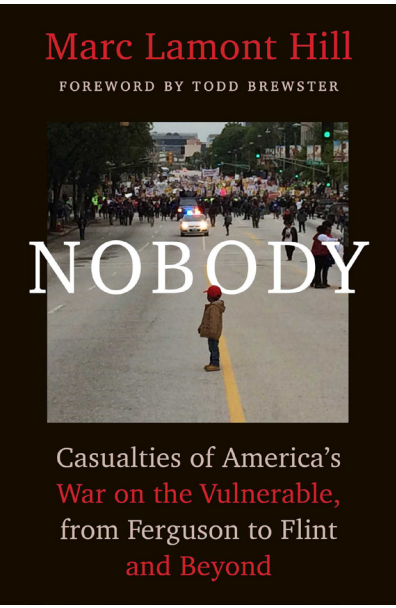
This social-political-economic entanglement created by Dr. Marc Lamont Hill offers an undeniably eye-opening perspective look at the

often overlooked groundwork for which racism in American has been built upon. Through this book, Dr. Hill seeks to challenge the psychological notion of “the other” as compared to the ‘normal’ or most overtly to ‘nobody.’ The seeming impetus for this work is the very notion that the victims explored in the book were not super-predators or even political activists, but rather more ordinary citizens who were just as equally the victims of a broken system as they were of police brutality. Jaywalking, playing loud music, failing to signal a lane change, making eye contact with a police officer, selling loosies, fleeing a traffic citation, holding a realistic-looking toy gun or [simply] being a stranger re-categorized them in society as ‘other.’ But how does the ‘other’ happen? Dr. Hill offers what might be the most insightful sociology lesson marketable to the masses through this compellingly writing book.

Most Americans, either through word of mouth, social media, or news outlets, are grotesquely familiar with a number of incidents of fatal police brutality of usually unarmed Black men and women since the death of Trayvon Martin in 2013. Dr. Hill opens his book with an acceptance, of sorts, regarding these tragedies. No one is here to argue the series of events that make up the fatal moments in these lost lives. Nor is anyone here to disagree with the results of these interactions with police.

The arguments posed throughout the text more assert questions of the historical fabric that develop identity and sociopolitical constructs that define the law. He strives to educate his readers on how the state of Black America has led to these facts. Each chapter meticulously analyzes various politically and economically oppressive environments surrounding the loss of Black life; how the Black body has come to be NOBODY.

Beginning with one of the most publicly known cases of fatal police brutality, Dr. Hill challenges his readers to understand that Michael Brown, as far as the rest of the world was concerned, was simply considered a nobody. He was not an activist; he was not a hero; he was not giving rallies or leading marches. Michael Brown was the same ‘NOBODY’ as every other Black victim of racist housing conditions looking to survive small town Ferguson, MO. Michael Brown

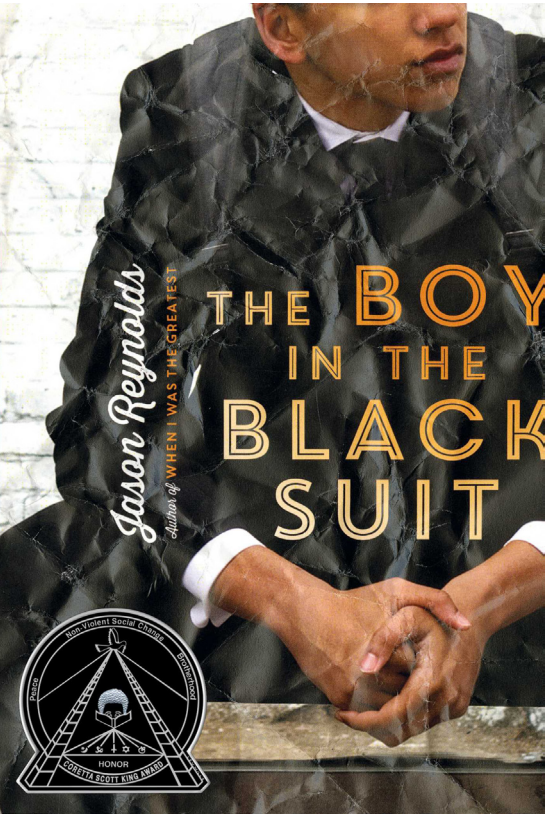


was the same ‘NOBODY’ as the other 98 percent African American high school graduating class, which lost its accreditation due to consistently low test scores. Yet, it is here, in the social construction of inconsequentiality, that Dr. Hill demands the attention of his readers. We must confront the undeniable social constructs that have gripped individual lives and communities with over a century’s worth of segregated and oppressive laws and culture norms that should dare allow a man, identified by the color of his skin, to be effortlessly re-categorized as NOBODY.

Works like these, presented by Dr. Hill, are especially important with the exponential rise of the Black Lives Matter Movement as he offers an easily accessible entry into a vastly complex history of racial inequality, racial profiling, and criminal justice discrimination. This book should be considered an educational launching point for any socially conscious individual seeking to equip themselves with the necessary tools to make sound, well-informed arguments regarding systematic racism in the United States. Additionally, this book is also well adjusted to serve as a reference tool for more well-informed or scholarly activists to not only re-ground themselves in the micro-picture but also to prepare themselves to share and educate their communities on complex topics in ways that are motivating, tangible and relatable.

Youth Corner Book Review: The Boy in the Black Suit

By Karen Lemmons



THE BOY IN THE BLACK SUIT BY JASON REYNOLDS. 255 pages. Atheneum Books for Young Readers. \$17.99. Ages 12 and up.

The statement that “everyone grieves in their own way” resonates in this story. Since the death of his mother, Matt is wearing a black suit every day. To cope with the death of his

wife, his father drinks. This is a sad time indeed, and Matt decides he needs a job to help with the household finances. Matt thinks about working at Cluck Bucket, a fast food restaurant. The wages are okay and an attractive young girl name Lovey works there. Just as he was ready to complete an application at Cluck Bucket, Mr. Ray, a funeral owner, offers Matt a job at a funeral home. Matt accepts the job and thus begins his healing process.

Jason Reynolds is a master storyteller who writes stories that are real, emotional, and, at times humorous. To handle grief by working in a funeral home seems a bit unusual, but it works in this story. Matt observes all the different funerals, and the ways in which people handle their grief. Although the story centers around the funeral home and the different funerals, Reynolds weaves in other aspects of urban life through a homeless shelter, hospital, school, and neighborhood.

The characters are real, full of emotion, with a sense of humor, and just regular people living in an

urban city. Before his mom died, Matt lived with both parents. He is a high school senior and has a best friend name Chris. Chris is a good best friend for Matt, and he provides just enough humor and honesty to help Matt. Matt is interested in girls, and when he meets Lovey, the relationship slowly develops. Lovey, is a caring and assertive young woman who helps Matt deals with his emotions. Mr. Ray, the funeral owner is a positive and strong role model for Matt and the man that Matt needs while his father recovers.

A good story with relatable characters living in the city. Read it.

Information Literacy Skills For Seniors Transitioning to Incoming Freshmen

By Karen Lemmons, Library Media Specialist, Detroit School of Arts

My additional responsibilities as a school library media specialist include teaching a one semester course in computer applications. Presently this course is required and students usually take this course in their senior year. This course has no defined and prescribed curriculum. Therefore, the teacher has some flexibility in teaching the content. The previous teacher taught the basic and advance features and tips of Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. This information is indeed useful and students will definitely benefit from creating word documents, excel spreadsheets, and PowerPoints. However, when I began teaching this course, I took a different approach.

While an attendee at an American Association of School Librarians (AASL) national conference a few years ago, I attended a session on high school students and their information literacy skills as incoming freshmen. The presenters, whose names I cannot remember, reported that most high school students lacked certain information literacy skills to conduct scholarly and

academic research. My own research concluded similar results. One study conducted in 2011 by Paula Winward, a graduate student at the University of Northern Iowa, indicated that faculty noticed students had difficulty using periodical databases and knowing where to look for good Internet sources. Furthermore, faculty noticed that students lacked practice and confidence in forming complex ideas in research. Faculty stated that students had a tendency to select quick answers without evaluating sources, and they were unable to recognize useful information in a biased source. (Winward, 2011)

In another study conducted in 2010 by Evan S. Frankl, at Queens College of the City University of New York, the results were similar. Although students were very familiar with Google, few were familiar Google’s advanced search features and with Google Scholar. Although students may be aware that some websites may contain inaccurate or false information, students lacked sufficient skills to effectively evaluate the website for its validity, accuracy and

reliability. Additional literature and studies indicate similar results. High school students lack sufficient skills in information literacy. (Frankl, 2010) These same studies suggested and/or recommended that secondary schools with high school librarians would be very effective in teaching these information literacy skills.

I was a recent panelist at a one day conference with public, school, and academic librarians. Part of our discussion focused on entering freshmen and their lack of information literacy skills. We agreed that information literacy skills should and need to be taught to high school students. We also agreed that collaboration between the high school librarian, subject area teacher, and an academic librarian could provide the powerful instruction that our students need to become more information literate. The challenge is coordinating this effort.

This brings me back to my computer applications course. At the end of each semester, I ask students which assignments they thought were the

most and least beneficial. They were very honest with me in sharing their thoughts. Website evaluation was the most beneficial. Their least beneficial was my extensive instruction and assignments on our state databases. My students did enjoy creating projects, particularly PowerPoints on banned books, and creating a Kahoot game.

They also liked creating an interactive image using Thinglink. For the most part, the students said there were some benefits in all the assignments given; they just felt I gave them “too much.” Reflecting on my instruction strategies, the assignments, and whether or not the students really possess the necessary information literacy skills they need as incoming freshmen, I know that some of my assignments need some fine-tuning and some need to be eliminated altogether. Using their information, plus the literature, the AASL and International Society for Technology in Education Standards, I plan to be more strategic in my instruction and providing more in-depth assignments. My focus will be on the following skills in order for my students to be information literate incoming freshmen.

- » Understand that research is a process of planned inquiry.
- » Demonstrate how to ask a range of questions throughout the research process and speculate about

likely means to answer them.

- » Search strategies, particularly Boolean logic.
- » Find, evaluate, and select appropriate sources to answer questions. These sources would include primary and secondary sources, as well as articles from databases, and other search engines: i.e., Duckduckgo, Sweetsearch, and Google Scholar.
- » Evaluate information found in selected sources on the basis of accuracy, validity, appropriateness for needs, importance, and social and cultural context.
- » Read, view, and listen for information in any format in order to make inferences and gather meaning.
- » Make sense of information gathered from diverse sources by identifying misconceptions, main and supporting ideas, conflicting information, and point of view or bias.
- » Apply critical thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation, organization) to information.
- » Organize knowledge so that it is useful.
- » Use technology and other information tools to analyze and organize information.
- » Use the writing process, media and visual literacy, and technology skills to create products that express new understandings.
- » Model legal and ethical behaviors when using information and

technology by properly selecting, acquiring, and citing resources.

» If our school is fortunate enough to retain the same staff from last year, I also plan to collaborate with an English teacher, and perhaps a social studies teacher, and an academic librarian from our nearby university to implement an inquiry project for our students. If we successfully coordinate this project, students may be able to visit the university library, and experience how to access the university databases and other resources. We hope that this project will help our students further apply and transfer the information skills they need to complete this project. Upon completion of this project, we hope our students will understand the necessity of possessing these skills as incoming freshmen.

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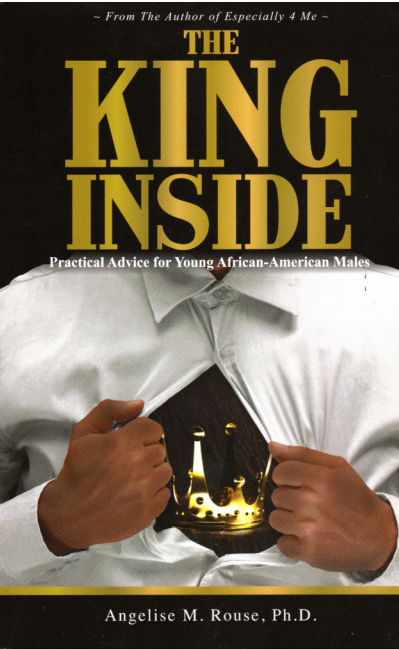
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Book Review: *The King Inside: Practical Advice for Young African American Males*

By Roland Barksdale-Hall, Mercer County Mentoring

Angelise M. Rouse, an educator, chooses to focus upon how an African American male can become a king and leader in his community. In *The King Inside: Practical Advice for Young African American Male*, an easy-read loaded with valuable information, Dr. Rouse provides Young African American Males a path to greatness. The title derives its name from an event in Disney’s *Lion King*. Mufasa tells Simba there is a king inside of you. In her professional experience she has found many youth languishing due to a lack of a strong foundation.

Dr. Rouse looks at ten steps, presented as “Apps”, to success and provides “King Initiatives” to take. App One, Family Foundation, discusses the importance of family, both extended and fictive, along with the significance of guideline and rules. App Two, Educational Foundation, argues that the path to achieving a career through an education is more attainable than becoming a professional athlete. While she mentions both vocational education and college, she chooses to focus upon a path to higher



education. Manufacturing positions are presented as on a decline.

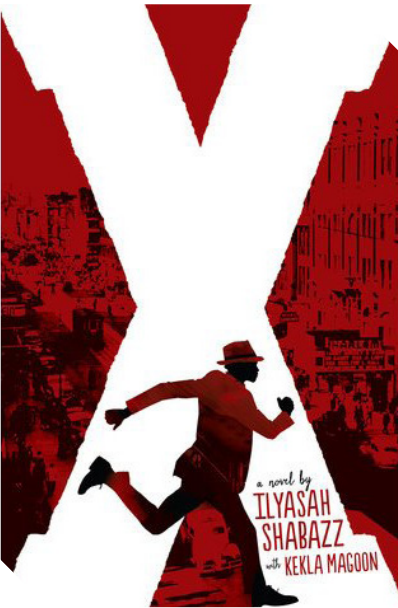
App Three, Spiritual Foundation, looks at how to mesh feeling about self, others, art and eating habits. App Four, Mentoring Foundation, is a critical chapter that discusses what a mentor is, why you benefit from a mentor relationship, and how to find a mentor. App Five, Friendship, and App Nine, Female Foundation,

promote leadership in identifying and building healthy relationships with friends and females. App Six, Self-Empowerment Foundation, and App Seven, Money Foundation, focus upon drive to be successful from working to investment and entrepreneurial activities. The author discusses the importance of a solid character and good reputation. App Ten, Pay-It –Forward, highlights the significance of a passion, social responsibility, travel, fraternities and professional networking. *The King Inside: Practical Advice for Young African American Males* is highly recommended for young adult collections and as a gift book.

Youth Corner Book Review - X: a Novel

Book Review by Karen Lemmons

X: A Novel by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon.
348 pp. Candlewick Press. \$16.99.
(Young adult; ages 14 and up)



“I am Malcolm.”
“I am Malcolm Little.”
“I am my father’s son.”

Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X, and Kekla Magoon team up to write a historical fictional account of Malcolm Little’s life from the time he left Lansing, Michigan, to his imprisonment. Using historical documents, family stories, and other primary sources of information, Shabazz and Magoon craft a story rich with emotion, realism, and history. An image of a hanging man, his father murdered, mother taken to a mental institution are just a few of the experiences that impact Malcolm’s life in a powerful way. Malcolm’s hustling life in Boston and Harlem are experiences that shape Malcolm’s lifestyle and, ultimately, land him in prison. However, as much as these experiences impacted and shaped Malcolm’s life, they don’t control or define him. Malcolm knows he is his father’s son, but he can choose to live differently. Thankfully for us, Malcolm does.

Shabazz and Magoon do an excellent job combining all the sources

of information and adding their artistic license to create this story. History is integrated throughout this story as Malcolm lives through the depression, World War II and the Civil Rights Movement. The shifting from past to present may be problematic and confusing for some. However, Shabazz and Magoon minimize that confusion with subheadings of dates and times in each chapter. Writing the story in first person adds authenticity and credibility as Malcolm describes what he sees, feels, and thinks. Many readers will be able to identify with these thoughts and feelings, and hopefully, like Malcolm, become empowered.

In the back of the book, Shabazz states that she considers it an honor and privilege to tell the story of Malcolm X’s life and work. I am so glad that she accepted the responsibility to write this incredible story. Read it for yourself and decide.

ESSA, School Libraries, & What it Means to/for Me

By Karen Lemmons, Library Media Specialist, Detroit School of Arts

I, along with thousands of other school librarians, was glad when The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) passed in December, 2015. This act includes school library programs and school librarians as partners in helping students achieve academically. Words like funding and Title I thrilled my ears. Working in a Title I school with no budget for library resources, the passage of ESSA was the answer to my budget request. I began talking with my principal about the ESSA and the possibility/reality of a library budget. I am so ready for this funding! However, obtaining this funding will be a challenge.

Historically, the ESSA is Reauthorization of the ESEA Act of 1965. In that Act, Title II, Section 201 specifically authorized (not required) funds for school library resources and materials. Furthermore, each state had to submit a detailed plan for expenditures for the sole purchase of library resources and materials. Please find the relevant portions from this link: <https://federaleducationpolicy.wordpress.com/2011/02/19/1965-elementary-and-secondary-education-act/> Although this act authorized (not required) support for school libraries, many public schools received funding

for library resources and materials. As a student in a public school at that time, I remembered every school I attended had a library managed by a school librarian. I also remember reading books identified as purchased with ESEA funds. At that time, I didn't understand the identification, nor did I care. As a student who loved reading and had access to books, I was very grateful.

Times are much different now. The political, social and economic culture and climate are different. Education is different with the bombardment of assessments that allegedly determine a student's academic achievement. The establishment and influx of charter schools, online schools, and other education programs provide parents with more educational choices for their children. Technology has impacted our personal, business, and social lives greatly.

To reflect this changing landscape, The ESSA reauthorization of the ESEA of 1965, eliminates, adds, and revises information to meet the current and future needs of students enrolled in public, private and charter schools. Unfortunately, the ESSA eliminates the specific provision for school libraries

that was set forth by the ESEA of 1965. However, the ESSA does include school libraries and school librarians in a broader context.

In Title I, Part A, Section 1112 - Local Educational Agency Plans, authorizes the state to

“(B) assist schools in developing effective school library programs to provide students an opportunity to develop digital literacy skills and improve academic achievement.”

In Title II, Part A - Supporting Effective Instruction, under State Activities, under types of state activities (B) (xiii), states are authorized (not required) to use grant and subgrant funds for “supporting the instructional services provided by effective school library programs.”

Under Title II, Part B, Subpart 2 - Literacy Education For All, Results for the Nation. The purpose of which is described below:

“(1) to improve student academic achievement in reading and writing by providing Federal support to States to develop, revise, or update comprehensive literacy instruction plans that, when implemented, ensure high-quality instruction and effective

strategies in reading and writing from early education through grade 12;

In Section 2224, Subgrants to Eligible Entities in Support of Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Literacy, (4) Local Applications, in (c) Local Uses of Funds for Kindergarten Through Grade Five and in (d) Local Uses of Funds for Grade Six Through Grade 12, school librarians are included in professional development to support, develop, administer, and evaluate high-quality comprehensive literacy instruction initiatives. In Section 2226 - Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL):

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts reserved under section 2201(2), the Secretary may award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities for the purposes of promoting literacy programs that support the development of literacy skills in low-income communities, including—
“(1) developing and enhancing effective school library programs, which may include providing professional development for school librarians, books, and up-to-date materials to high-need schools;. . .”

Finally, in Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants, the ESSA authorizes support to

“The purpose of this subpart is to improve students’ academic achievement by increasing the capacity of States, local educational agencies, schools, and local

communities to—
“(1) provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
“(2) improve school conditions for student learning; and
“(3) improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.

Included in this part, is “access to school libraries” found in the section under state activities.

Inclusion of effective school libraries indicate, at least at the national level, the impact and role effective school libraries have on the academic achievement of students. This also recognizes the role of an effective school librarian as an instructional partner. This recognition is a welcomed first step. However, there are some additional steps to take, and it is incumbent upon the school librarian to follow through on these steps. The next step involves convincing the local school districts and the state educational agencies on the importance and impact of effective school libraries and school librarians.

In Michigan, this step is challenging. Michigan ranks 47th in the nation in terms of the ratio of students per certified school librarian. The reduction and elimination of school libraries occurred during the same time that Michigan's reading scores as measured by the NAEP dropped. In 2015, Michigan was ranked 41st in 4th grade reading achievement on

the NAEP. In Detroit, the challenge is even more difficult. In June 2016, the Michigan legislature created a new Detroit Public School Community District with conditional funding and support. Detroit ranks near the bottom in statewide assessment scores and student proficiency. Detroit has few, if any, school librarians in the elementary/middle schools. I am one of a few school librarians in the high schools. If Detroit and Michigan want to rank higher, they must include effective school library programs into ESSA implementation.

I have taken some steps. I responded to our Michigan Department Education Survey on ESSA Implementation. In each applicable section, I stated the need for effective school libraries and school librarians and their impact and role on student achievement. Another school library media specialist, a professor at Wayne State University, and I are included in an Innovation Approaches to Literacy grant, which we hope will be funded. I will continue talks with my principal, demonstrating my effectiveness as an instructional partner and as a school library program administrator. Any other steps that I may be called upon to take, I will do. If there ever was an opportunity and need to advocate for school libraries and school librarians, this is it. If any of you have an opportunity to advocate for school libraries and school librarians, I hope you will do your part. We thank you in advance for your support.

SPECIAL SECTION

Carla Hayden

- 42 *Dr. Carla Hayden to serve as the next Librarian of Congress*
- 43 *Senate Voting Results for Dr. Carla Hayden Confirmation as Librarian of Congress*
- 45 *Carla Hayden Round-Up: What They're Saying*
- 46 *What the 'First Black Woman' Librarian of Congress Means*
- 48 *My Personal Perspective on the Library of Congress Confirmation Process*



Dr. Carla Hayden to serve as the next Librarian of Congress

By: Shawnda Hines, ALA

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Editor's Note: The following is a reposted press release.

CHICAGO – Today (July 13, 2016) the U.S. Senate approved the nomination of Dr. Carla Hayden to serve as the nation’s 14th Librarian of Congress. Dr. Hayden, American Library Association (ALA) past president and director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland, is the first female and the first African American to lead the Library of Congress. She also is the first professional librarian to be confirmed in more than 60 years.

Dr. Hayden’s appointment comes in the wake of the retirement of Dr. James H. Billington and on the heels of a rigorous ALA grassroots and social media campaign (#Hayden4LOC) that encouraged thousands of library advocates to contact their Senators to support her confirmation.

“The library community is elated that Dr. Hayden is our nation’s new Librarian of Congress,” stated ALA

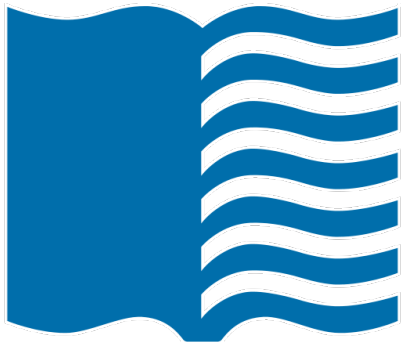
President Julie Todaro. “She holds all of the professional competencies needed to successfully lead the nation’s library.

“There is no doubt that Dr. Hayden will have a positive impact by leading efforts to establish a more modern approach to serving members of Congress, researchers and the public at large. Hayden holds a profound understanding of the integral role libraries play in formal education, community-based learning, and the promotion of individual opportunity and community progress. I believe that through her visionary leadership the Library of Congress will soon mirror society’s rapidly changing information environment, while successfully preserving the cultural record of the United States.”

The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with more than 58,000 members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. The mission of the American Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and

information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

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LIBRARY OF
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Senate Voting Results for Dr. Carla Hayden Confirmation as Librarian of Congress

By BCALA Publications Committee

On July 13, the U.S. Senate voted 74-18 to confirm Dr. Carla Hayden as the next Librarian of Congress. Hayden’s appointment will be a ten-year appointment. Eight senators did not vote on the matter. The following is a listing of how each senator voted.

ALABAMA:	Sessions (R-AL), Not Voting	Shelby (R-AL), Not Voting
ALASKA:	Murkowski (R-AK), Yea	Sullivan (R-AK), Yea
ARIZONA:	Flake (R-AZ), Yea	McCain (R-AZ), Nay
ARKANSAS:	Boozman (R-AR), Yea	Cotton (R-AR), Nay
CALIFORNIA:	Boxer (D-CA), Yea	Feinstein (D-CA), Yea
COLORADO:	Bennet (D-CO), Yea	Gardner (R-CO), Yea
CONNECTICUT:	Blumenthal (D-CT), Yea	Murphy (D-CT), Yea
DELAWARE:	Carper (D-DE), Yea	Coons (D-DE), Yea
FLORIDA:	Nelson (D-FL), Yea	Rubio (R-FL), Nay
GEORGIA:	Isakson (R-GA), Nay	Perdue (R-GA), Nay
HAWAII:	Hirono (D-HI), Yea	Schatz (D-HI), Yea
IDAHO:	Crapo (R-ID), Nay	Risch (R-ID), Nay
ILLINOIS:	Durbin (D-IL), Yea	Kirk (R-IL), Nay
INDIANA:	Coats (R-IN), Nay	Donnelly (D-IN), Yea
IOWA:	Ernst (R-IA), Nay	Grassley (R-IA), Yea
KANSAS:	Moran (R-KS), Yea	Roberts (R-KS), Not Voting
KENTUCKY:	McConnell (R-KY), Yea	Paul (R-KY), Yea
LOUISIANA:	Cassidy (R-LA), Nay	Vitter (R-LA), Nay
MAINE:	Collins (R-ME), Yea	King (I-ME), Yea
MARYLAND:	Cardin (D-MD), Yea	Mikulski (D-MD), Yea
MASSACHUSETTS:	Markey (D-MA), Yea	Warren (D-MA), Yea
MICHIGAN:	Peters (D-MI), Yea	Stabenow (D-MI), Yea
MINNESOTA:	Franken (D-MN), Yea	Klobuchar (D-MN), Yea
MISSISSIPPI:	Cochran (R-MS), Not Voting	Wicker (R-MS), Not Voting
MISSOURI:	Blunt (R-MO), Yea	McCaskill (D-MO), Yea
MONTANA:	Daines (R-MT), Nay	Tester (D-MT), Yea

 Continued from previous page

NEBRASKA:	Fischer (R-NE), Yea	Sasse (R-NE), Nay
NEVADA:	Heller (R-NV), Nay	Reid (D-NV), Yea
NEW HAMPSHIRE:	Ayotte (R-NH), Yea	Shaheen (D-NH), Yea
NEW JERSEY:	Booker (D-NJ), Yea	Menendez (D-NJ), Yea
NEW MEXICO:	Heinrich (D-NM), Yea	Udall (D-NM), Yea
NEW YORK:	Gillibrand (D-NY), Yea	Schumer (D-NY), Yea
NORTH CAROLINA:	Burr (R-NC), Yea	Tillis (R-NC), Yea
NORTH DAKOTA:	Heitkamp (D-ND), Yea	Hoeven (R-ND), Yea
OHIO:	Brown (D-OH), Yea	Portman (R-OH), Yea
OKLAHOMA:	Inhofe (R-OK), Not Voting	Lankford (R-OK), Yea
OREGON:	Merkley (D-OR), Yea	Wyden (D-OR), Yea
PENNSYLVANIA:	Casey (D-PA), Yea	Toomey (R-PA), Yea
RHODE ISLAND:	Reed (D-RI), Yea	Whitehouse (D-RI), Yea
SOUTH CAROLINA:	Graham (R-SC), Yea	Scott (R-SC), Nay
SOUTH DAKOTA:	Rounds (R-SD), Not Voting	Thune (R-SD), Yea
TENNESSEE:	Alexander (R-TN), Yea	Corker (R-TN), Yea
TEXAS:	Cornyn (R-TX), Yea	Cruz (R-TX), Nay
UTAH:	Hatch (R-UT), Yea	Lee (R-UT), Nay
VERMONT:	Leahy (D-VT), Yea	Sanders (I-VT), Not Voting
VIRGINIA:	Kaine (D-VA), Yea	Warner (D-VA), Yea
WASHINGTON:	Cantwell (D-WA), Yea	Murray (D-WA), Yea
WEST VIRGINIA:	Capito (R-WV), Yea	Manchin (D-WV), Yea
WISCONSIN:	Baldwin (D-WI), Yea	Johnson (R-WI), Yea
WYOMING:	Barrasso (R-WY), Yea	Enzi (R-WY), Yea

Carla Hayden Round-Up: What They’re Saying

By: BCALA Publications Committee

** Please note, viewpoints in these links not necessarily shared by BCALA members or leadership*

- The Atlantic Weighs In:
<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2016/07/carla-hayden-is-librarian-of-congress/491267/>
- Blavity’s Brief: <http://blavity.com/carla-hayden-chosen-next-librarian-congress/>
- Five Facts About Carla Hayden: <http://fusion.net/story/273365/carla-hayden-librarian-of-congress-nominee-facts/>
- It’s Time to Celebrate Carla Hayden:
<http://hellogiggles.com/icymi-time-celebrate-carla-hayden-first-black-woman-librarian-congress-girl-power/>
- Library Journal Calls Confirmation “By Wide Margin”:
<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/07/people/carla-d-hayden-confirmed-as-14th-librarian-of-congress-by-wide-margin/>
- Nomination, Including Carla Hayden Testimony Before the Senate:
<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-114shrg20359/pdf/CHRG-114shrg20359.pdf>
- Tech Dirt Calls the Confirmation Good News:
<https://www.techdirt.com/articles/20160713/13432334965/good-news-carla-hayden-easily-approved-as-new-librarian-congress.shtml>
- What the First Black Woman Librarian of Congress Means: <http://time.com/4410721/carla-hayden-history/>
- World’s Greatest Leaders, Carla Hayden: <http://fortune.com/worlds-greatest-leaders/carla-hayden-25/>

WHAT THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS MEANS

By Angela Ards, Southern Methodist University

The following is an excerpt of an article that appeared in “Time” magazine, reposted with permission

She's the first person other than a white man to hold the post in 214 years.

The Senate confirmed Carla D. Hayden as the 14th Librarian of Congress last week. She is being hailed as “the first woman and the first African American” to hold the position.

In our cultural discourse around firsts, “woman” usually means white woman, the largest recipients of affirmative action in the American workplace; “African American” signifies “Black man,” whose accomplishments and concerns often define those of the race. That a Black woman has achieved a first when she is often the very last represents progress for all people, of any color.

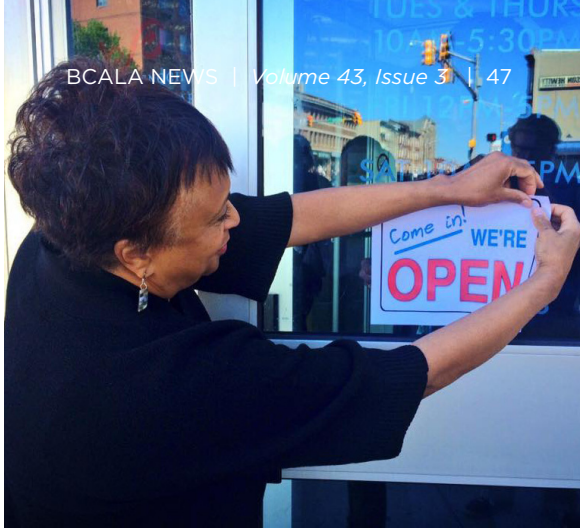
The moment’s true milestone is that she is the first person, period, other than a white man to ever hold the post in its 214-year history.

When President Obama nominated Hayden back in February, he noted that someone of her background brought “long overdue” changes to library leadership.

Hans von Spakovsky, a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation, took exception to the president’s attempt at inclusion, deriding the nomination as “political correctness” seeking “to push the nation backwards to a past where race and gender were dominating considerations in employment, academia, politics, and culture.”

If there has been a “dominating consideration” in terms of race and gender at the Library of Congress, it has been to be white and male, as the 13 other preceding heads have been.

To continue reading, please visit: <http://time.com/4410721/carla-hayden-history/>



My Personal Perspective on the Library of Congress Confirmation Process

By Rose Timmons Dawson, Alexandria (Va) Library

Note: In the BCALA Spring 2016 Issue, the author wrote her Personal Perspective on the Librarian of Congress Confirmation Hearings

UNBELIEVABLE!

Since the February 2016 nomination of Dr. Carla Hayden as the next Librarian of Congress by President Obama and the April 2016 confirmation hearing before the Senate Rules Committee, the process seemed to stall.

I attended the hearing and intentionally submitted my letter of support a few days later to reiterate her excellent response to several of their questions. The fact that Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), committee chair, stated that he hoped to move the nomination forward, seemed like a good sign.

WHAT IS TAKING SO LONG?

It is now May and there has been no movement.

SIGH.

ABOUT TIME!

June 9, 2016, The ALA Washington Office reports that the Senate Rules Committee unanimously approved by voice vote moving Dr. Carla

Hayden's nomination to be Librarian of Congress to the full Senate for a confirmation vote. Since no such vote has been scheduled yet, everyone was being asked by ALA to contact both their Senators and tell them to confirm Hayden for Librarian of Congress!

TO CALL OR NOT TO CALL?

That is the question. Better still, why am I nervous about doing it? It's just like placing a call during Legislative Day. I don't know, somehow it feels different. More important. I look at the talking points, select the two sentences I will say, practice them one good time, and then place the call. Virginia senators Tim Kaine (D) and Mark Warner (D) are good guys and I know they will do the right thing.

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF THEY MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE?

I kept thinking how appropriate that would be. To celebrate the appointment of the Librarian of Congress with the library world: academic, public, school, and special librarians would be amazing! However, as I headed off to Orlando, FL, I was beginning to feel that politics were going to affect the process;

and not in a good way.

SOME 4TH OF JULY.

Once I got back from the conference, I decided to take a few days to celebrate my mother-in-law's 80th birthday. Concerning the LC appointment, this was turning into one of those instances where "no news was bad news."

YOU'RE KIDDING!

Even though I was on leave, July 13, I took a peak at my work e-mail and saw a link to a Washington Post op-ed concerning the nomination. Not only that, it was trending all over social media. What gives? It basically spelled it all out for us. While the committee had done its job, it appeared that the Senate was not going to allow a vote to even take place, derailing her nomination altogether. There are times I hate politics.

PROCESS WORKS!

Imagine my surprise when I check my e-mail a few hours later and see a string of correspondence announcing Carla Hayden confirmed as 14th Librarian of Congress! While this announcement was a few weeks later than I had hoped, that didn't make it any less sweet.

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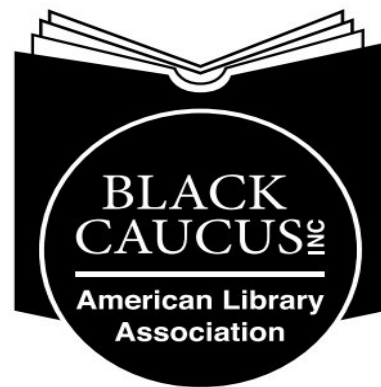
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But that's what's in it for us. What's in it for you? Well, since rebranding BCALA's newsletter into a quarterly, magazine-like publication, writing contributions to our publication have tripled, suggesting increased readership and an increased interest in publishing with us. Each issue of *BCALA News* is printed and mailed to certain institutional members and presented and shared to the public via an online permalink. For the nominal costs listed to the right, your advertisement will be shared with hundreds of library professionals throughout the country, and your business allows us to dedicate BCALA membership funds to scholarships and other community-building initiatives.

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—Terri Lee Freeman, Pres.
National Civil Rights Museum

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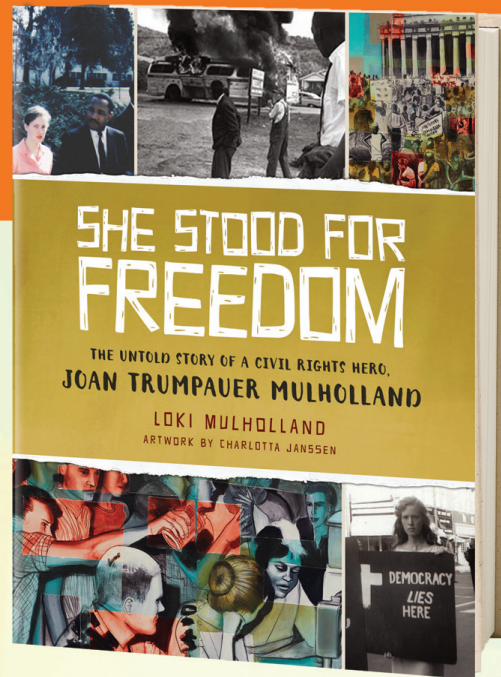
—Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

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—Booklist

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—Kirkus



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—Simeon Booker, award-winning journalist

