Cultural Literacy Programs in Your Library: Connecting with Diverse Children & Families

Selected Professional Associations:

★ American Indian Library Association (AILA) - http://www.ailanet.org/
★ American Library Association’s Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) - http://www.al.org/emiert/
★ American Library Association’s Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT) - http://www.al.org/glbtrt/
★ Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) - http://www.apalaweb.org/
★ Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) - programs and services for differently able individuals and incarcerated persons. http://www.al.org/ascla/
★ Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) - http://www.bcala.org/
★ Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) - http://www.cala-web.org/
★ International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) - http://www.ifia.org/
★ International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) - http://www.ibby.org/
★ REFORMA (The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking) - http://www.reforma.org/
★ United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) – http://usbby.org/

Selected Online Resources:


American Library Association Office of Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services – One stop location for many of ALA’s diversity-related initiatives and programs. Available: http://www.al.org/offices/diversity

American Indians in Children’s Literature – Blog by librarian and researcher Debbie Reese that critically examines the representation of indigenous characters in youth literature. Available: http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com


The Danger of a Single Story. TEDtalk by Author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2009. – Describes the important for books and other media to accurately depict our culturally...

Infopeople, a grant project of the Califa Group, is supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.


Importance of Diversity in Library Programs and Material Collections for Children (2014) – Whitepaper published by the Association for Library Service to Children about why libraries should provide diversity in the services, programs, and collections they offer. Contains several links at the end for multicultural books awards, professional books on multicultural library services, and program ideas for outreach to diverse populations. Available: http://www.al.a.org/alcs/sites/al.a.org.alsc/files/content/ALSCwhitepaper_importance%20of%20diversity_with%20graphics_FINAL.pdf


Libraries 4 Black Lives – Resource for librarians dedicated to supporting the Movement for Black Lives and suggesting tangible ways librarians can affirm that the library supports racial equality. Available: http://libraries4blacklives.org/

Mirrors Windows Doors: Celebrating Diversity in a Whole World of Children’s and YA Literature - UK-based resource blog that includes thoughtful articles about cultural diversity in children’s literature, interviews with authors and illustrators of multicultural books, and rich information about connecting children and teens with culturally diverse books around the world. Available: http://mirrorswindowsdoors.org/wp/


Open Book – Blog hosted by the children’s book publisher Lee & Low Books, which provides snapshots on diversity in children’s and adult media as well as critical commentary on diversity publishing. Available: http://blog.leeandlow.com

Reading While White – Critical blog by four white children’s librarians that examines cultural diversity in children’s and YA literature and how white culture influences interactions with diverse books. Available: http://readingwhilewhite.blogspot.com

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Rich in Color - Blog dedicated to promoting young adult literature with diverse characters or written by authors of color. Available: [http://richincolor.com](http://richincolor.com)

**We Need Diverse Books Campaign** – Grassroots effort started in April 2014 to address the lack of diversity in children’s and YA publishing. Available: [http://weneeddiversebooks.org/](http://weneeddiversebooks.org/)


**World of Words (WOW): International Collection of Children’s and Adolescent Literature** - Created by the University of Arizona, the resource contains a database of children’s and young adult books from around the world as well as articles related to multicultural or international children’s literature. Available: [http://wowlit.org/](http://wowlit.org/)

**The World Through Picture Books: Librarians’ Favourite Books from Their Country** - Booklist produced by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Libraries for Children and Young Adults section, IFLA Literacy and Reading section, and IBBY. Includes recommended children’s books from 36 counties that can be used to promote intercultural understanding through children’s books. A traveling exhibition is also available to librarians. Available: [http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/publications/professional-report/135.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/publications/professional-report/135.pdf)

**Grant & Scholarship Resources**

**Light the Way Grant: Outreach to the Underserved Grant** - Awarded by the Association for Library Service to Children and sponsored by Candlewick Press, this grant supports an exemplary library outreach program to underserved children. Available: [http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/profawards/candlewicklighttheway](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/profawards/candlewicklighttheway)


**Estela and Raul Mora Award** - Awarded by REFORMA) and sponsored by Latina children’s author and poet Pat Mora and her siblings, this award/grant retroactively funds an exemplary cultural literacy program that celebrates Día: Children’s Day, Book Day. Available: [http://www.reforma.org/mora_award](http://www.reforma.org/mora_award)

**Spectrum Scholarship Program** – Established in 1997, this program is designed to increase the number of culturally diverse librarians in the field. Available: [http://www.ala.org/offices/diversity/spectrum](http://www.ala.org/offices/diversity/spectrum)
**ALA Diversity Research Grant** – Supported by ALA, this grant encourages research in diversity-related topics (broadly defined) of concern to the field of librarianship. Available: [http://www.ala.org/research/larks/diversity](http://www.ala.org/research/larks/diversity)

**Online Diversity Training Resource:**

Creating More Inclusive Libraries webstreams – Produced by the Lincoln Trail Library System via an IMLS grant, these highly recommended training videos featuring diversity trainer Susan O’Halloran provide opportunities for librarians to think about their cultural biases and how that influences the library services they offer to diverse populations. Note that there are several webstreams; 1A, 1 B, 1C, 1D, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 3A, 3B, and 3C all on the right side of the screen. Available: [http://lincolntrail.typepad.com/ltls_quick_connections/2011/06/cmil-session-1a.html](http://lincolntrail.typepad.com/ltls_quick_connections/2011/06/cmil-session-1a.html)

**Selected Cultural Programming Resources:**

- **Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys** by National Endowment for the Humanities in collaboration with the American Library Association’s Public Program Office - [http://bridgingcultures.neh.gov/muslimjourneys/](http://bridgingcultures.neh.gov/muslimjourneys/)
- **¡Colorín Colorado!** by Reading Rockets - [http://www.colorincolorado.org/](http://www.colorincolorado.org/)
- **Dai Dai Xiang Chuan: Bridging Generations, a Bag at a Time** by the Chinese American Librarians Association - [http://daidai.cala-web.org/resources/](http://daidai.cala-web.org/resources/)
- **El Dia de los niños/El Dia de los Libros (Day of the Child Day of the Book)** by the Association for Library Service to Children, Pat Mora, and REFORMA - [http://dia.ala.org/](http://dia.ala.org/)
- **Embracing Diversity: Sharing Our Songs and Rhymes** by Burnaby Public Library (Canada). Suggests many songs and storyline ideas for promoting cultural understanding in multiple languages. Available: [http://bpl.bc.ca/kids/embracing-diversity/program-ideas](http://bpl.bc.ca/kids/embracing-diversity/program-ideas)
- **International Children’s Book Day.** Celebrated on or around April 2nd. Each year a national section of IBBY is selected to develop a theme and create a poster with artwork and a message to children around the world promoting literacy. Available: [http://www.ibby.org/1494.0.html](http://www.ibby.org/1494.0.html)
- **Noche de Cuentos** by REFORMA (The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking) - [http://nochedecuentos.org/](http://nochedecuentos.org/)
- **Perspectives for a Diverse America** by Teaching Tolerance is a free literacy-based curriculum focusing on social justice and anti-bias themes. - [http://perspectives.tolerance.org](http://perspectives.tolerance.org)
- **Programming Librarian** by the American Library Association, - [http://www.programminglibrarian.org](http://www.programminglibrarian.org)
- **Reading Is Grand! Celebrating Grand-Families @ Your Library** by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association - [http://bcalareadingisgrand.weebly.com](http://bcalareadingisgrand.weebly.com)
- **Sister Libraries Program** by Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) - [http://sisterlibraries.wordpress.com/](http://sisterlibraries.wordpress.com/)
- **Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture** by American Indian Library Association and the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association - [http://talkstorytogether.org](http://talkstorytogether.org)

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Selected Professional Books and Articles:

Articles


Online Articles


Books


**Still Struggling for Equality: American Public Library Services with Minorities** by Plummer Alston Jones, Jr. Libraries Unlimited: 2004
