

An Endangered Species: The Black Male Librarian

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Despite the small numbers of Black librarians, there is a rich but untold or forgotten history of Black American's contributions to the profession. This program will examine the history and contributions that Black male librarians have made in the Nation's intellectual and cultural past and present and discuss strategies to encourage Black males to pursue careers and leadership positions in library and information science fields. In addition, The program will highlights issues Black males encounter in the workplace and the recruitment and retention of Black male librarians.

A close-up photograph of a man's face and neck, focusing on his lips and chin. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a red dress shirt, and a patterned tie. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of his skin and the fabric of his clothing.

The Black Male Librarian... *An Endangered Species*

Presented by **Julius C. Jefferson, Jr.**

The National Diversity in Libraries Conference
October 1- 4, 2008
Louisville, Kentucky

A close-up photograph of a man's face and neck, focusing on his lips and chin. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a red dress shirt, and a red tie with a small, repeating pattern. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Topics

- Statistics - Credentialed Librarians by Characteristics
- 19th and 20th Century Black Male Librarians
- Issues Facing Black Male Librarians
- Solutions to Recruit

A close-up, low-angle shot of a man's face and neck. He is wearing a dark grey suit jacket, a red dress shirt, and a red tie with a small, repeating square pattern. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of his skin and the details of his clothing. The background is a plain, light grey color.

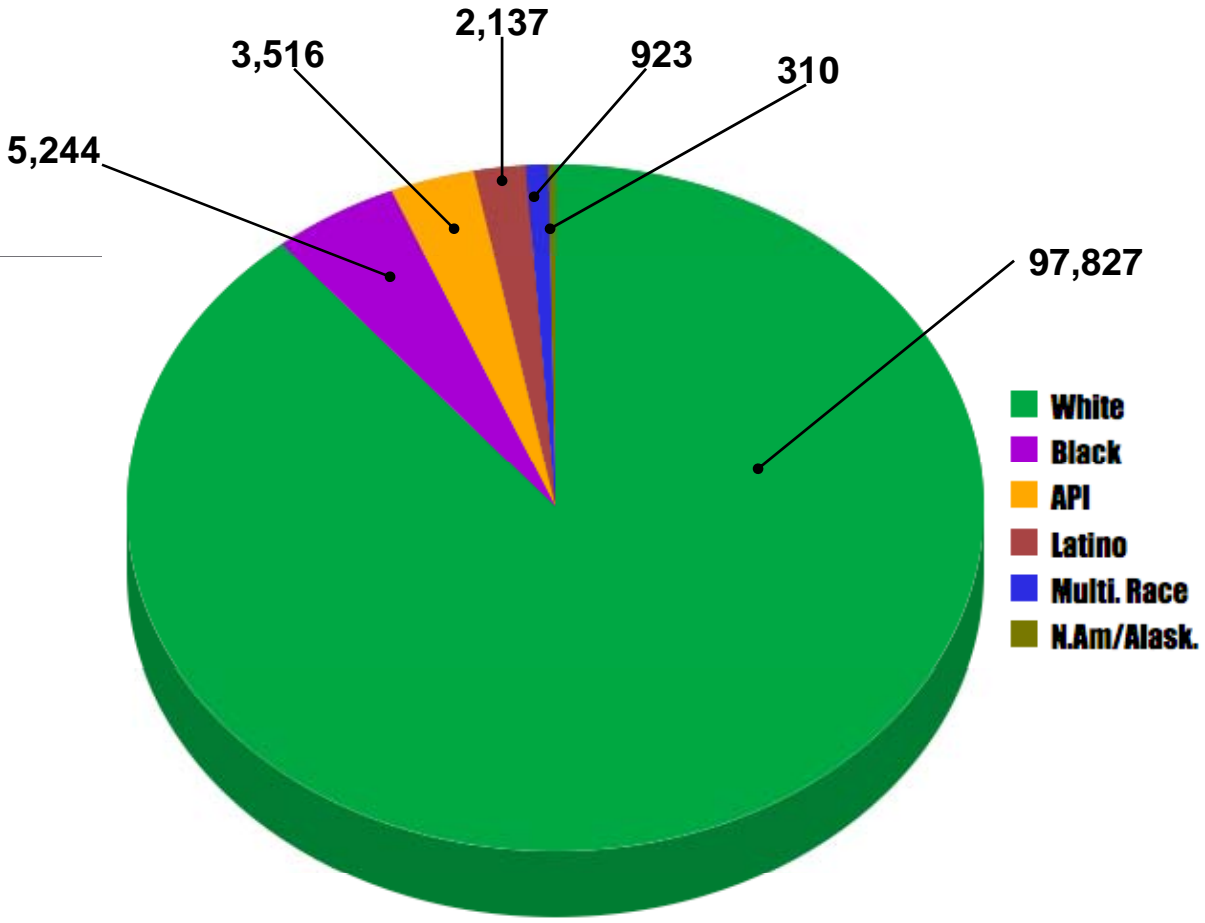
Credentialed Librarians by Characteristics



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Statistics for Librarians — 2000

Number of Credentialed Librarians by Race — Total 109,958*

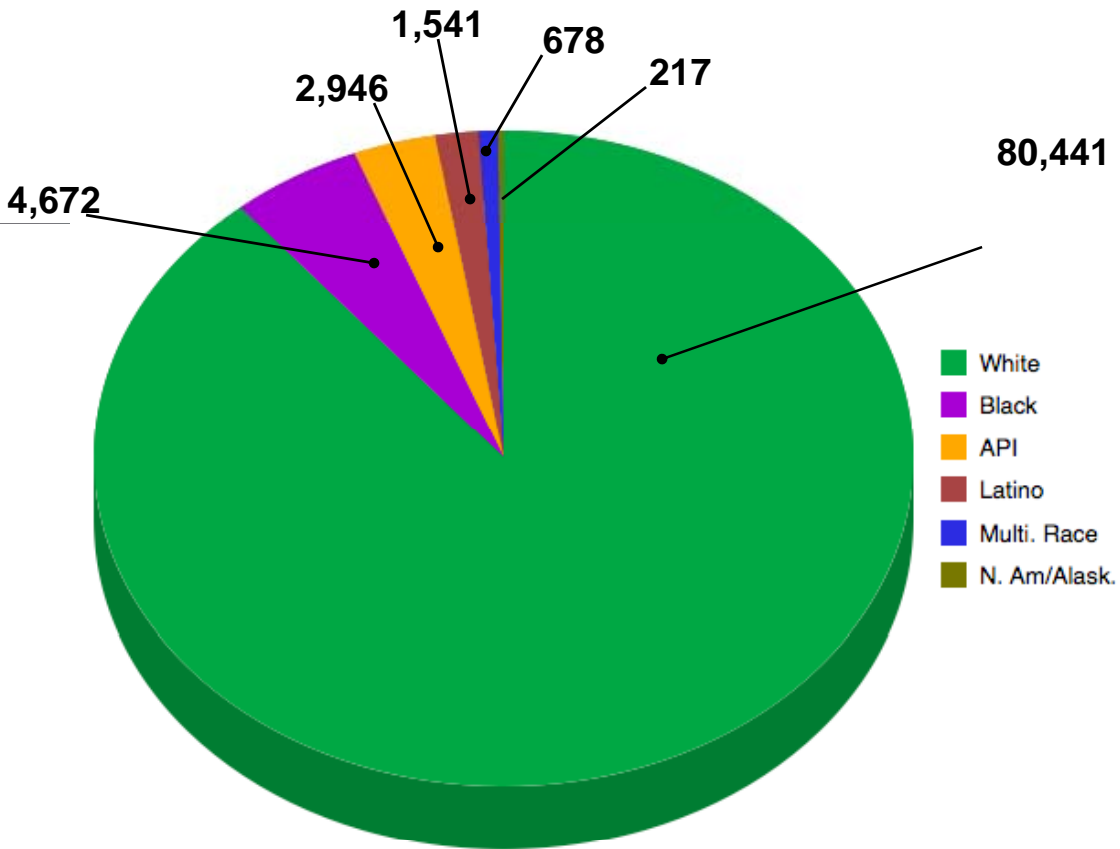


* Diversity Counts Office for Research and Statistics Office for Diversity — Table 1: Number of Credentialed Librarians by Characteristic, 2000



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Number of Credentialed Librarians by Race and Sex:
FEMALES — Total 90,495*

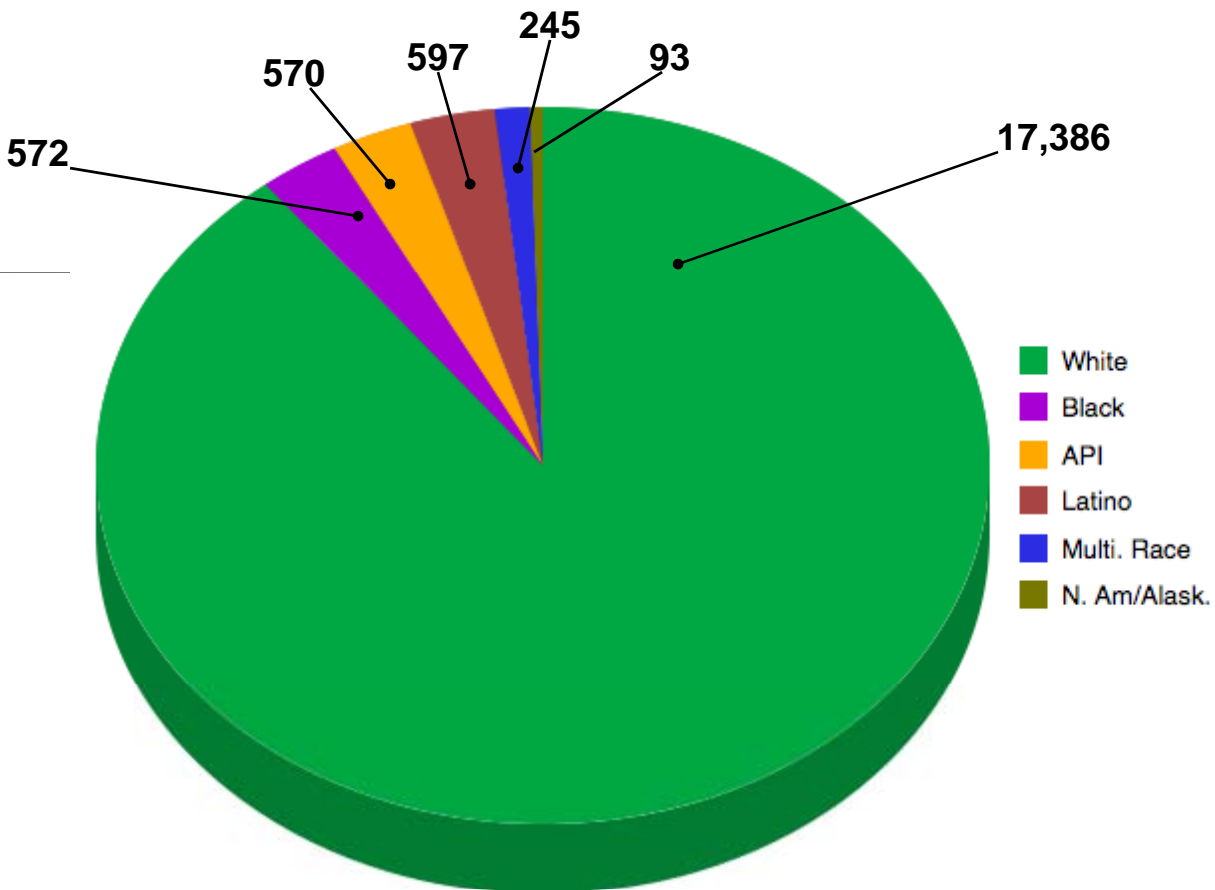


* Diversity Counts Office for Research and Statistics Office for Diversity — Table 1: Number of Credentialed Librarians by Characteristic, 2000



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Number of Credentialed Librarians by Race and Sex:
MALES — Total 19,463*

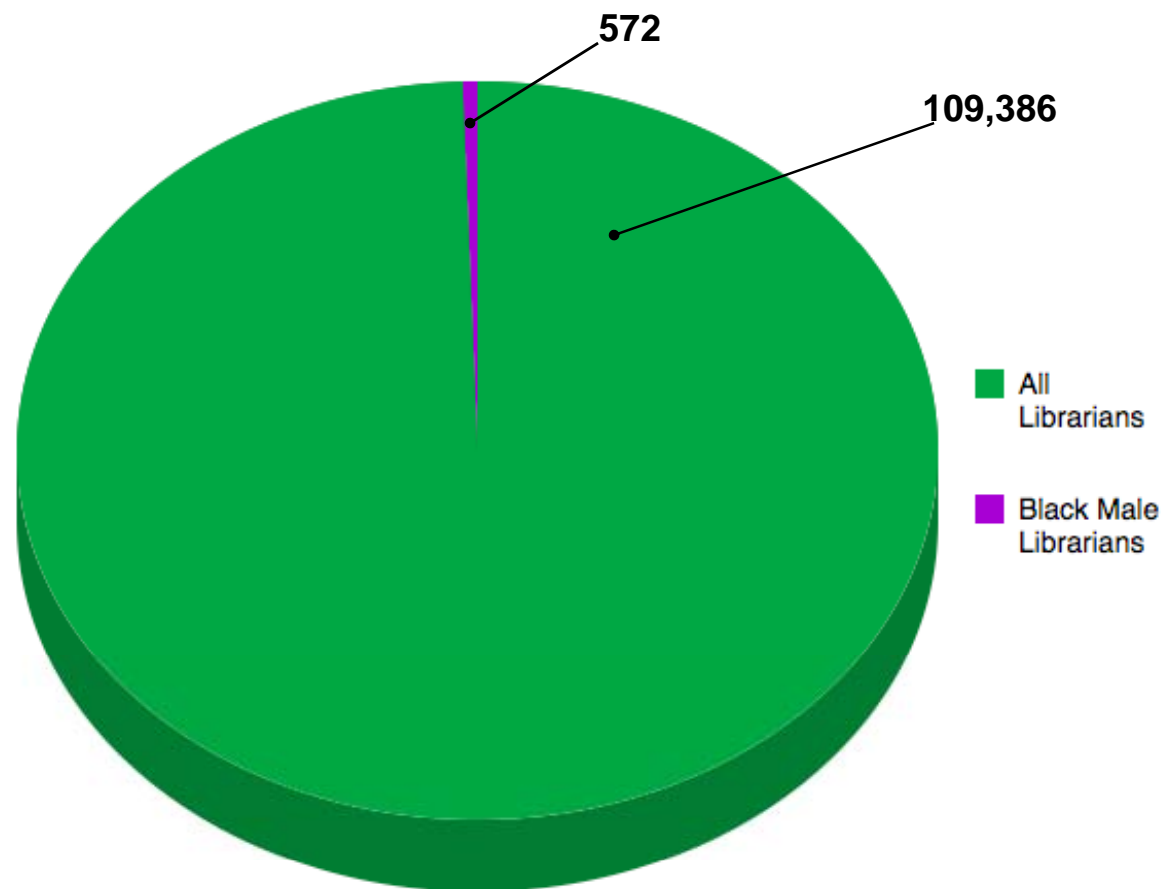


* *Diversity Counts* Office for Research and Statistics Office for Diversity — Table 1: Number of Credentialed Librarians by Characteristic, 2000



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Number of Credentialed Librarians by Race and Sex — Total 109,958*



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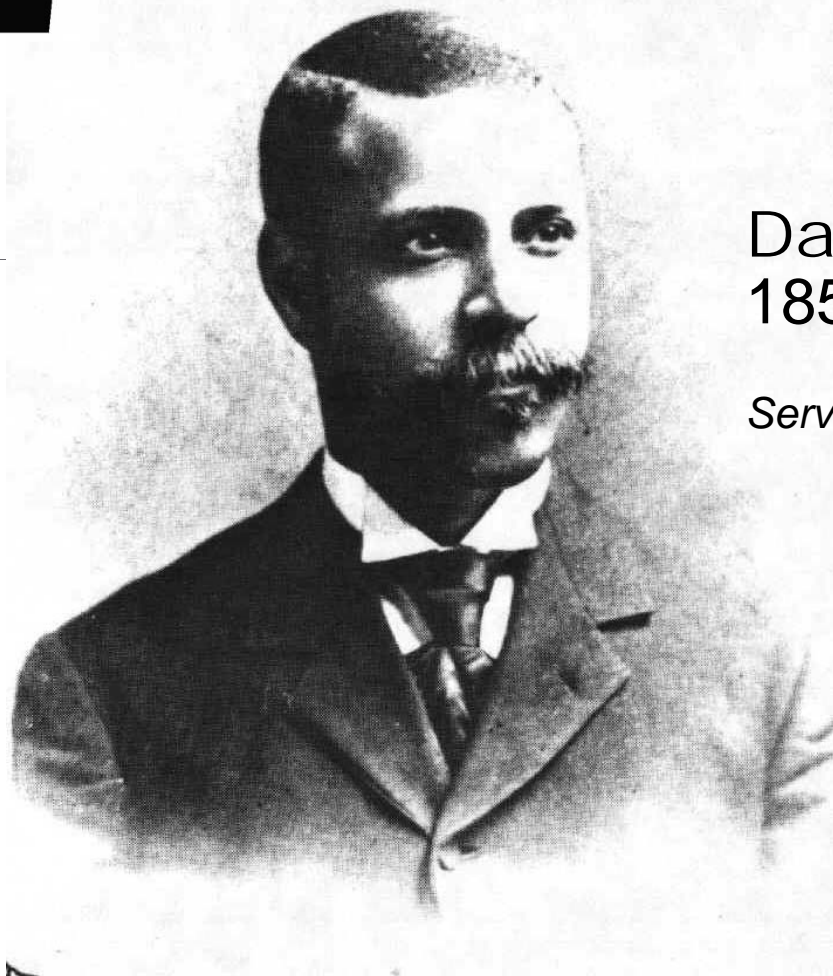
A close-up photograph of a man's face and neck, focusing on his lips and chin. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a red dress shirt, and a red tie with a small, repeating square pattern. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of his skin and the fabric of his clothing. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

19th Century African-American Librarians...



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19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS



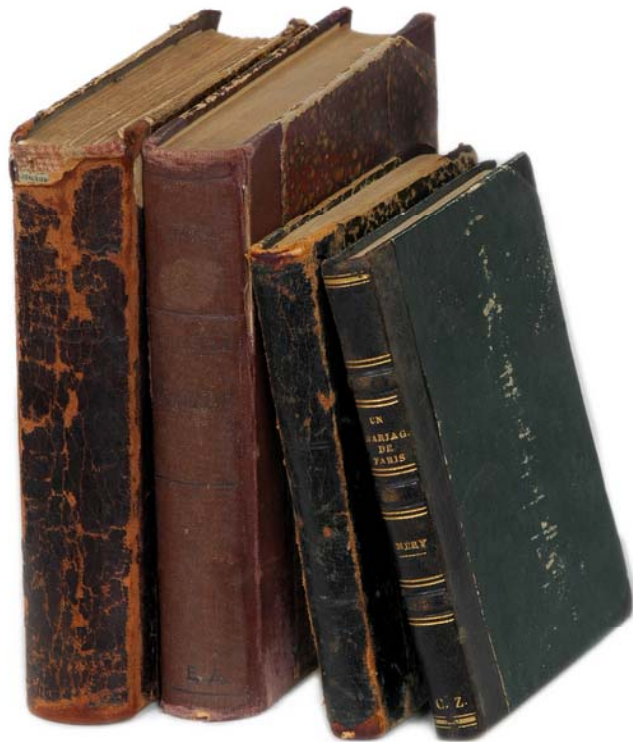
Daniel Murray
1852-1925

Served 52 years at the Library of Congress.



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19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS



John F.N. Wilkerson

*Assistant in the Library of Congress
Law Library from 1857-1912.*



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19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS



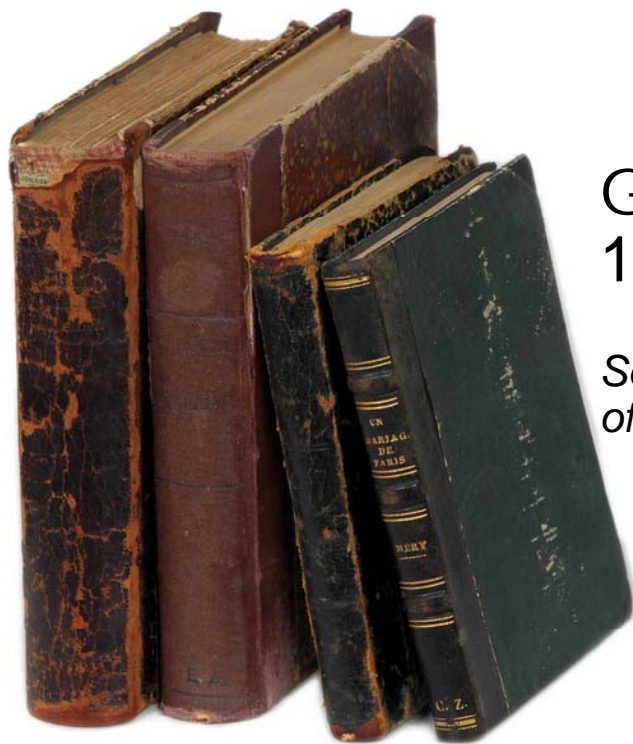
William H. Grimshaw

*First attendant in the Jefferson
Congressional Reading Room*



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19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS



George W. Forbes
1864-1927

*Served as assistant in the West End Branch
of the Boston Public Library from 1896-1912.*



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19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

Monroe Nathan Work
1866-1945

Founder and director of the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee in Alabama. Founded the annual "Negro Year Book."



WORK, MONROE NATHAN (1866-1945) / From: *Black Librarians*



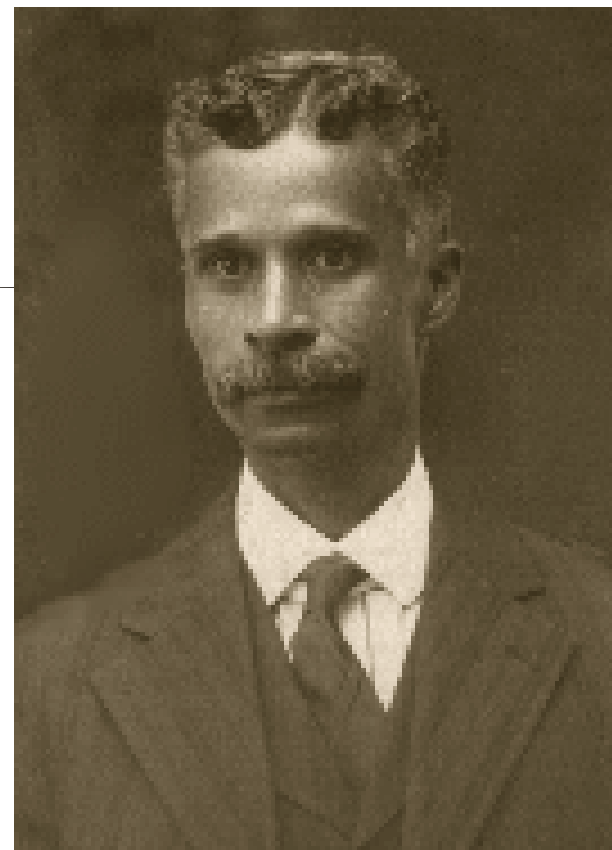
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19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

Thomas Fountain Blue 1866-1935

Headed the first public library to establish branch services for Blacks in the South (Louisville, KY).

First African American to speak before the American Library Association.





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19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

Edward C. Williams
1871-1929

First professionally-trained African-American librarian, educator, and writer.

Cited as one of American Libraries' 100 library leaders of the century.





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19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS



Henry Proctor Slaughter
1871-1958

*Typographer and journalist by occupation,
but best known as a bibliophile and collector.*




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19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

Arthur A. Schomburg
1874-1938

In 1911, co-founded the Negro Society for Historical Research. Between 1931 and 1932 Schomburg served as Curator of the Negro Collection at the library of Fisk University.



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20th Century African-American Librarians...



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20TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

Robert E. Wedgeworth

In 1972, became the first African-American Executive Director of the ALA, the first black dean of the library school at Columbia University, the first black library director at the University of Illinois, and the first African-American as well as non-European to head the IFLA in more than sixty years.





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20TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

Joseph Henry Reason
1905-1997

*Elected the first African-American
President of the Association of College
and Research Libraries in 1971.*



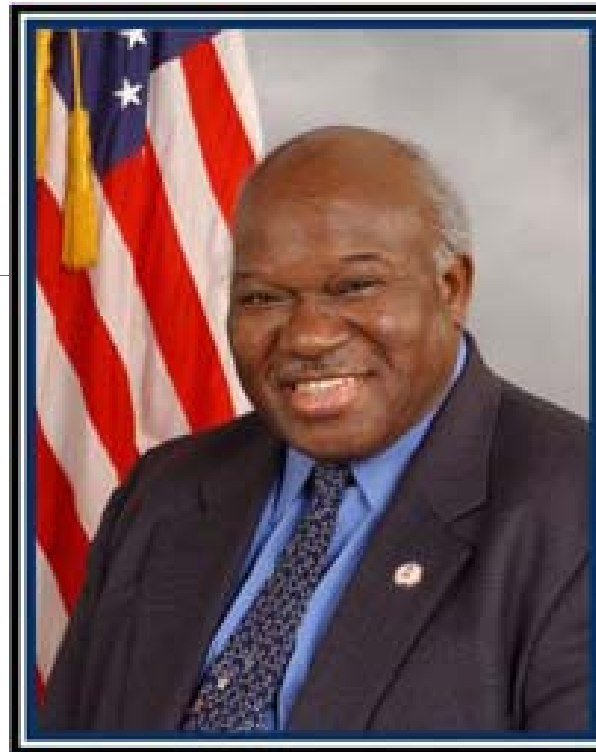


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20TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

Major R. Owens
1936-

*The country's only librarian who
was a member of the U.S.
Congress.*





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20TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

Arna Bontemps
1902-1973

Served as head librarian at Fisk University from 1934-1964.





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20TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

E.J. Josey
1924-

Cofounder, Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), 1970; ALA, president, 1984-85.



A close-up, low-angle shot of a man's face, focusing on his lips and chin. He is wearing a dark grey suit jacket, a red dress shirt, and a red tie with a small, repeating geometric pattern. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his lips and chin, and deep shadows on the left side of his face and under his chin. The background is a plain, light grey color.

Issues and Solutions



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Survey of Black Male Librarians Shows Following Issues:

- Not being promoted
- Not enough librarians of color
- Not enough mentors that can offer inside knowledge of how a library works politically
- Not getting the same opportunities as whites
- Ostracized by patrons
- Not being seen as qualified
- Stereotyped as only good for handling difficult people
- Not taken seriously as a professional, going beyond to prove worthy
- Feeling like a token hire
- When stating difference, seen as angry or confrontational



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Solutions for Recruiting:

- Reiterating the value of the profession
- Sell the diversity of profession
(ex: make a connection between the library and sports)
- Introduce profession to children, as early as kindergarten
- Highlight the role of the Internet
- Mentorship
- Need more African Americans in academia and positions to hire

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