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the 1970 and 1994 editions of the black librarian in america by e j josey singled out racism as an important issue to be addressed within the library profession although much has changed since then this latest collection of 48 essays by black librarians and library supporters again identifies racism as one of many challenges of the new century essays are written by library educators library graduate students retired librarians public library trustees veteran librarians and new librarians fresh out of school with great ideas and wholesome energies they cover such topics as poorly equipped school libraries and the need to preserve the school library a call to action to all librarians to make the shift to new and innovative models of public education the advancement in information technology and library operations special libraries recruitment and the indiana state library program racism in the history of library and information science and challenges that have plagued librarianship for decades this collection of poignant essays covers a multiplicity of concerns for the 21st century black librarian and embodies compassion and respect for the provision of information an act that defines librarianship the essays are personable inspiring and thought provoking for all library professionals regardless of race class or gender

this important book is a call to action for the library community to address the literacy and life outcome gaps impacting african american youth it provides strategies that enable school and public librarians to transform their services programs and collections to be more responsive to the literacy strengths experiences and needs of african american youth according to national assessment of educational progress neap only 18 percent of african american fourth graders and 17 percent of african american eighth graders performed at or above proficiency in reading in 2013 this book draws on research from various

academic fields to explore the issues surrounding african american literacy and to aid in developing culturally responsive school and library programs with the goal of helping to close the achievement gap and improve the quality of life for african american youth the book merges the work of its three authors along with the findings of other researchers and practitioners highlighting exemplary programs such as the award winning pearl bailey library program the maker jawn initiative at the free library of philadelphia and the blue ribbon mentor advocate writing institute in the chapel hill carrboro city schools among others readers will understand how these culturally responsive programs put theory and research based best practices into local action and see how to adapt them to meet the needs of their communities

librarians around the country are currently on a battleground defending their right to purchase and circulate books dealing with issues of race and systemic racism despite this work the library community has often overlooked even ignored its own history of white supremacy and deliberate inaction on the part of white librarians and library leadership author wayne a wiegand takes a crucial step to amend this historical record in silence or indifference racism and jim crow segregated public school libraries analyzes and critiques the world of professional librarianship between 1954 and 1974 wiegand begins by identifying racism in the practice and customs of public school libraries in the years leading up to the brown v board of education decision this culture permeated the next two decades as subsequent supreme court decisions led to feeble and mostly unsuccessful attempts to integrate jim crow public schools and their libraries during this same period the profession was honing its national image as a defender of intellectual freedom a proponent of the freedom to read and an opponent of censorship still the community did not take any unified action to support brown or to visibly oppose racial segregation as black school librarians and their black patrons suffered through the humiliations and hostility of the jim crow educational establishment the american library community remained largely ambivalent and silent the book brings to light a distressing history that continues to impact the library community its students and its patrons currently available school library literature skews the historical perspective that informs the present in silence or indifference is the first attempt to establish historical accountability for the systemic racism contemporary school librarianship inherited in the twenty first century

the story of the long struggle of african americans to attain civil rights particularly in the south is well documented the story of

the public library movement in america is also well documented however the story of the african american struggle for access to public libraries in the south is not as well documented with much of what has been written previously told in piecemeal fashion in short studies or confined to a particular southern state the history of public library access for african americans in the south or leaving behind the plow examines this subject in the context of the south as a cohesive region it brings together and examines the three distinct fields involved in this history southern studies african american studies and library studies how these three fields interact and influence one another inform the history of public library access for african americans in the south

most vols contain a directory section

presents information on all aspects of african american life including politics employment and income education religion literature performing arts science and medicine and sports

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