

Culturally-Responsive Guidelines for Public Libraries

Tulsa City-County Library

Friday, October 24, 2008, 10 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Background: In 2001, a group of Alaskan library directors worked with Dr. Lotsee Patterson to develop *Culturally Responsive Guidelines for Alaska Public Libraries*. The goal of the workshop was to develop guidelines to help public libraries examine how they respond to the specific informational, educational, and cultural needs of their Alaska Native users and communities. As the library directors worked on the *Guidelines*, it became clear that they could be applied to other cultural groups as well. An outcome was the production of succinct guidelines that are easily adaptable to all libraries and can be tailored to accommodate local circumstances and needs.

Synopsis: This Institute will consider four aspects of libraries where culturally responsive guidelines are applicable: 1) the environment in which services are delivered; 2) the programs and services offered; 3) the collections that are developed; and 4) the staff that is employed at the library. The Institute will conclude with an introduction to specific culturally responsive services and programs that all libraries can implement.

Intended Audience: Public librarians who serve culturally diverse communities; tribal librarians who see a benefit in working with public libraries to ensure culturally responsive services, and individuals who wish to improve the multicultural offerings of public libraries.

Presenters: **Amy Cooper Cary**, Archival Studies Program, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Information Studies; **Kathy Huber**, Genealogy Librarian, Tulsa City-County Library; **Gary Kramer**, Public Information Officer, Pioneer Library System, Norman Oklahoma; **Julie Moring**, Librarian, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma; **David Ongley** Library Director Tuzzy Consortium Library; **Satia Orange**, Director, Office for Literacy & Outreach Services, American Library Association; **Lotsee Patterson**, Professor Emerita, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Oklahoma; **Teresa Runnels**, Coordinator, American Indian Resource Center, Tulsa City-County Library; **Martha Stalker**, Director, Bartlett-Carnegie Library, Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Resource Materials:

Culturally-Responsible Guidelines for Alaska Public Libraries available at <http://www.akla.org/culturally-responsive.html>

Native American Protocols for Libraries, Archives, and Information Services <http://www2.nau.edu/libnap-p/protocols.html>

SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m.	Welcome – Suanne Wymer, Associate Director, Tulsa City-County Library and Susan McVey, Director, Oklahoma Department of Libraries
9:40 a.m.	Report on National Survey of Public Libraries Regarding Culturally Responsive Services – Satia Orange, American Library Association
10:00 a.m.	Introduction to Providing Culturally Responsive Library Services – Dr. Patterson will provide an overview of the 2001 “Sharing Our Pathways” proceedings and introduce the “Culturally-Responsive Guidelines” and how they may be applied to diverse cultures.
10:30 a.m.	Collections – Session will review 10 key elements to consider when developing a culturally-responsive collection, including seeking community input, the development and preservation of materials that document and transmit local cultural knowledge, and the use of diverse formats and technologies to gather and make available traditional cultural knowledge. Lotsee Patterson
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Developing Culturally Responsive Library Boards, Staff, and Volunteers – David Ongley
11:15 a.m.	Five Characteristics of a Culturally Responsive Library Environment – David Ongley
11:30 p.m.	Services and Programs – Session will discuss culturally responsive programming, community outreach, assessing community needs, adapting delivery of services to meet local needs, and engaging a multi-cultural community. Lotsee Patterson and David Ongley
12 noon	Lunch and tour of American Indian Resource Center
1:00 p.m.	Panel Discussion: Models of Cultural Responsive Programs and Library Services – Session will provide an overview of successful programs sponsored by the Tulsa City-County Library and the Pioneer Library System, as well as an introduction to the Sapulpa Public Library’s collaboration with the Euchee Tribe to reconstitute and house historic records of the Euchee Tribe. Moderator: Jan Davis; Presenters: Gary Kramer, Pioneer Library System (Norman, OK), Julie Moring, Pioneer Library System (Norman, OK); Teresa Runnels, Tulsa City-County Library; Martha Stalker, Bartlett-Carnegie Library (Sapulpa, OK)
2:00 p.m.	Break
2:10 p.m.	Providing Culturally Responsive Genealogy Services in the Library Setting – Public libraries serve many culturally diverse communities. Preserving the histories of these communities is an important role for public libraries. This session will discuss developing, collecting and maintaining a genealogy collection. Tulsa City County Library’s genealogy librarian, Kathy Huber, will share ideas and tips as well as discuss print and online sources that will assist public librarians who work with those researching their native heritage.
3:10 p.m.	Break
3:20 p.m.	Culturally Responsive Considerations for Special Collections and Archives - This session will review the <i>Native American Protocols for Libraries, Archives, and Information Services</i> , an outline identifying best professional practices for culturally responsive care and use of tribal archival materials. This session will explore the role of intellectual and cultural property rights, address the need for repatriation or sharing of materials, and raise awareness of issues to consider when developing policies for collection development or digitization projects. Amy Cooper-Cary, Archival Studies Program, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
4:20 p.m.	Questions from the Audience, Concluding Remarks , Moderator: Lotsee Patterson