

# ANTIRACIST LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Racial Justice and Community

**Edited by** Kimberly Black and Bharat Mehra

ADVANCES IN  
LIBRARIANSHIP

**VOLUME 52**

ANTIRACIST LIBRARY AND  
INFORMATION SCIENCE

# ADVANCES IN LIBRARIANSHIP

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ADVANCES IN LIBRARIANSHIP VOLUME 52

**ANTIRACIST LIBRARY AND  
INFORMATION SCIENCE:  
RACIAL JUSTICE AND  
COMMUNITY**

EDITED BY

**KIMBERLY BLACK**  
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United Kingdom – North America – Japan  
India – Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited  
Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2023

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**British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data**

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-80262-100-6 (Print)

ISBN: 978-1-80262-099-3 (Online)

ISBN: 978-1-80262-101-3 (Epub)

ISSN: 0065-2830 (Series)



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# SERIES EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to take this opportunity and introduce myself as the new Series Editor of *Advances in Librarianship* since January 2021. In this capacity, I plan to extend the series' impact via integrating a critical perspective that spotlights social justice and inclusive praxis from the shadows to become an emerging canon at the very core of who we are and what we value as legit in Library and Information Science (LIS) scholarship and practice. This strategic vision requires destabilizing of entrenched hegemonies within our privileged ranks and external communities to alleviate intersecting political, economic, social, and cultural anxieties, and power imbalances we witness today. As we move toward the quarter-century mark, we also need to effectively document such paradigmatic shifts in LIS, serving as a foundation of inspiration upon which, together in our multiple identities and diversities, we can proudly contribute to the building of a meaningful society toward a brighter future for our children to inherit.

New stimulating models reimagining (or extending) the roles for cultural memory institutions (e.g., libraries, museums, archives, schools, etc.) and the field of information are much required to develop symbolic and real infrastructures for moving us forward. We also need to better tell our stories of information activism and community mobilization in the face of overwhelming challenges to human existence, from forces of neoliberal corporatization, political ransacking, media irresponsibility, climate change, environmental degradation, pandemic dis/misinformation, etc. What do the contemporary threats of human extinction and cultural decay mean for LIS professionals, be it scholars, researchers, educators, practitioners, students, and others embedded in a variety of information settings? Not only does it require actions in the "doing" of resistance via information to decenter dysfunctional powerbrokers and their oppressions and entitled privileges. However, disseminating a forward-thinking agenda and narrative beyond our internally focused bastardized institutional bastions is equally important, as we adopt an active stance to promote fairness, justice, equity/equality, change agency, empowerment, community building, and community development.

*Advances in Librarianship* holds a special place in the hands, hearts, and minds of readers as a key platform to support creative ideas and practices that change and better articulate the vital contributions of libraries and the impact of information on diverse multicultural communities in a global network information society. Moving forward, my aim for the series is to engage our diverse professional communities in critical discourse that enable real transformations to occur. It is important to propel progress in shifting entrenched positionalities in LIS, while making visible content related to the "margins." Decentering canons and practices toward equity of representation, inclusivity, and progressive change will naturally occur. Intersecting social, cultural, political, and economic upheavals in recent times demand an urgent response from the LIS professions in this regard.

I am truly honored and privileged to build on the legacy of Paul T. Jaeger, who served as Series Editor of *Advances in Librarianship* since 2013. His research helped to mobilize LIS in addressing concerns surrounding equity, diversity, and inclusion more substantially beyond past lip service, also shaping the focus of the book series. I plan to operationalize new directions for single- or multi-authored book-length explorations and edited collections by shifting focus on understudied spaces, invisible populations from the margins, and knowledge domains that have been under-researched or under-published in what we consider as high impactful venues in LIS and beyond. Examples might involve a reflective journey that established, or newly emerging LIS scholars, researchers, practitioners, and students critically reflect, assess, evaluate, and propose solutions or actions to change entrenched practices and systemic imbalanced inequities in different library and information-related settings. It might also involve decolonizing LIS publication industries in their biased Euro/Anglo-centricities with inclusion of content from geographical diversities around the world.

I am reaching out to our multiple audiences for their support toward these goals in spreading the word for proposals to new volumes in the series. Let us find our “collective voice” in the LIS professions to make us all uncomfortable as we continue to “push the buttons,” thereby, becoming stronger in our quest to further social justice and develop our humanity, human dignity, respect, and potential to the fullest.

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## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

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# EDITORS' DEDICATION

In assembling this work, we acknowledge and affirm Martin Luther King, Jr.'s observation made in his 1963 'Letter from Birmingham Jail,' where he stated that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny." We would like to dedicate this volume to the world that we have yet to create and to those who will inhabit it—a global 'Beloved Community' characterized by justice, equality and peace. As individuals who have devoted our careers to promoting social justice through education and fighting racism and race-based oppression, this volume is a testimony to the collective potential and power of information work and information professionals to transform society in creation of a just world.

First, we acknowledge and give honor to our forerunners and to those who came before us, who fought for us and who sacrificed more than we can imagine including in some cases, their very lives. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the many fabulous minds and righteous hearts that brought this project to realization including our authors, peer reviewers, supporters and of course, our readers—all co-laborers in the field for racial justice.

## **Peer Review Process**

This is a note about the peer review process used in the production of *Antiracist Library and Information Science: Racial Justice and Community*. A single blind peer review process was used (the reviewers knew the identity of the authors, however, the authors did not know the identity of the reviewers). The process was initiated by the co-editors and the editors mediated the interactions between the reviewers and authors. Reviewers were identified and selected based on their expertise and ability to review each chapter. Each contribution received two peer reviews. Reviewers were requested to provide unbiased and constructive comments with a focus on improving the work. Reviewers were sent a basic list of questions about the manuscript, but could respond to as many or few of the questions as they deemed necessary to provide a complete review. Through reviewer comments, the co-editors established the value and merit of the contribution to the subject, the quality of organization of the manuscript and the quality of writing and expression and in the long chapters, the appropriateness and accuracy of execution of the research design and methodology. The editors took all reasonable steps to ensure the quality of the manuscripts based on the merit in the work.