

groups? Have we in the profession been giving lip service to the idea of diversity in our ranks? Are we as a profession truly ready for a diverse workforce? For those who are confused about what can be done to increase diversity in our ranks, *Diversity Now* not only provides a great starting point for serious discussion of this critical topic, but also serves as a useful springboard for action and change.—*Kelly Rhodes, Appalachian State University.*

Graham, Patterson Toby. *A Right to Read: Segregation and Civil Rights in Alabama's Public Libraries, 1900–1965.* Tuscaloosa, Ala.: Univ. of Alabama Pr., 2002. 191p. \$37.50 (ISBN 0817311440). LC 2001-5918.

In the December 1960 issue of *Library Journal*, newly appointed editor Eric Moon wrote his infamous editorial, "The Silent Subject," in which he complained that the library profession, specifically the ALA, had generally ignored the racial segregation of public libraries in the South. Published forty-two years after Moon's editorial, Patterson Toby Graham's *A Right to Read* is the first book to examine public library segregation in Alabama from its origins in the late nineteenth-century U. S. Supreme Court ruling of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which proclaimed the legality of "separate but equal," public institutions for whites and blacks, through the eventual passage of landmark civil rights legislation in 1964.

Based on the records of library boards of the public libraries studied and on secondary sources addressing race relations and social responsibility in librarianship, Graham's book is divided into five chronological topics: the early years of public library development, 1918 to 1931; the Great Depression years, the 1930s; the Black Public Library Movement, 1941 to 1954; the Read-in Movement, 1960 to 1963; and librarians and the Civil Rights Movement, 1955 to 1965.

The early years of public library development in Alabama were characterized by the gradual establishment of separate, but "equal," African American public library branches. In 1918, the first public

library branch for African Americans, the Booker T. Washington Branch Library, was established in Birmingham. Thirteen years later in 1931, the Davis Avenue Branch Library in Mobile opened. Graham describes the ambivalence that moderate, white library board members felt with regard to race during this early period: African American branches served as tangible evidence that some white library supporters desired social improvement for blacks as long as they did not challenge white supremacy and were not too expensive

Although the Great Depression was a period of expansion of the public library movement in the South, and particularly in Alabama, the benefits of expanded library service did not touch the lives of many African Americans. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) allowed a "grass-roots" policy for decision making, ensuring discrimination against hiring black workers. Despite the qualified success of the Julius Rosenwald Fund in establishing library service for black mine workers in Walker County, and the enlightened collaboration of the National Youth Administration (NYA) and the industrial leadership of the American Cast Iron Pipe Company (Acipco), which led to the establishment of the Slossfield Branch of the Birmingham Public Library in 1940, Graham characterizes the 1930s as a decade full of missed and only partially realized opportunities in the provision of library service to African Americans.

The Black Public Library Movement in Huntsville, Montgomery, and Birmingham in the 1940s and 1950s was the work of black civic and religious leaders, educators, businesspeople, and librarians, notably Dulcina DeBerry, for whom the black branch of the Huntsville Public Library was named in 1941, and Bertha Pleasant Williams, who helped to establish the Union Street Branch Library in Montgomery in 1948.

The Read-in Movement was a focal point of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and early 1960s. Southern blacks

adopted the sit-in demonstration as a tool for creating awareness of discrimination in libraries. Eventually, they took their cases directly to the U. S. District Courts. To avoid costly lawsuits, white library boards in Mobile, in 1961, and Huntsville, in 1962, quietly integrated their libraries. In Montgomery, library integration came in 1962 after a series of sit-ins and court action, and despite Ku Klux Klan resistance. Birmingham integrated its libraries in 1963 following a lawsuit and a student protest demonstration. Mob violence, in which two black ministers were seriously beaten and injured, accompanied the integration of the public library in Anniston in 1963.

During the turbulent years of the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama, three white public librarians—Juliette Morgan, Emily Wheelock Reed, and Patricia Blalock—were at the center of the tumult. For her support of integration and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Morgan, a reference librarian at the Montgomery Public Library, paid the ultimate price of taking her own life in response to the extreme harassment she suffered at the hands of segregationists and the local library board. Reed, director of the Public Library Service Division of Alabama's state library agency, fought not only for the integration of Alabama's public libraries, but also for freedom of speech in the notorious censorship case involving Garth Williams's children's book, *The Rabbits' Wedding*, about a black male rabbit and a white female rabbit marrying and living happily ever after. Even the ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee failed to support Reed during the censorship controversy, which ended with Reed's vindication, but also her decision to leave Alabama. Blalock, of the Selma Public Library, demonstrated to the white library board the ultimate power of voluntary social change—change that spared Selma the demonstrations, “outside” agitators, and lawsuits.

Although Alabama's public libraries were integrated by 1963, it took another two years before the Alabama Library

Association was integrated and thus welcomed back into the fold of the ALA. Appallingly, the ALA neither exercised leadership nor provided support, financial or moral, for Alabama's public libraries during the tense and isolated years of segregation.

Patterson Toby Graham's *A Right to Read* is meticulously researched, documented, and indexed. His evenhanded treatment of a particularly sensitive issue, rather than being an indictment of southern librarians or American librarianship, is a reminder that some Americans were committed to the lofty ideals of freedom and equality long before those enduring values were reflected in national practice.—*Plummer Alston Jones, Jr., East Carolina University.*

Hauptman, Robert. *Ethics and Librarianship.*

Foreword by Peter Hernon. Jefferson, N.C., and London: McFarland, 2002. 151p. alk. paper \$35 (ISBN 0786413069). LC 2002-131.

Ethical issues in librarianship have received considerable attention in the past two decades. Several major conferences have been devoted to the topic, each with increased numbers of participants and attendees. A number of journal articles and conference papers have been produced on the topic, but few good monographs have been published. Publication of Robert Hauptman's new book, *Ethics and Librarianship*, is therefore quite timely. Author of *Ethical Challenges in Librarianship* (Oryx 1988), Hauptman continues the discussion of the treatment of ethical issues in librarianship introduced in his earlier book.

The first chapter serves as an introduction providing an overview of libraries, information, and ethics and highlighting the urgent need for the information profession to address ethical issues. These include the issues of privacy, intellectual property, fair use, intellectual freedom, confidentiality, and many more. Some of these concerns have been discussed for a long time but have recently become more salient in the technology-driven library