
Social Issues in Libraries:

A Bibliographic Guide to Programs and Policies of the 1990s

by Suzanne Wise

American society is changing. American libraries have a long and distinguished history of adapting to societal changes by providing not only traditional services to empower the general public, but also outreach services to the underserved and special populations. American librarians of the 1990s also must be part social worker, part educator, and part guidance counselor as they help library users cope with societal changes. Librarians must continue to be proactive, to reach out to the community and convince citizens that they need library services, and, then, to "deliver the goods."

The following annotated, categorized bibliography serves as a guide to programs and policies of the 1990s from libraries of all types. It does not purport to be exhaustive, but rather representative and extremely practical. It includes essays, articles, monographs, and government documents. North Carolina librarians should be cheered to know that libraries across the country are successfully meeting the challenges posed in serving a diverse and expanded public in an ever changing society.

General Overview of Services to Special Populations

Alloway, Catherine Suyak, ed. *The Book Stops Here: New Directions in Bookmobile Service*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1990.

Includes a section on special uses of the bookmobile — rural service, urban areas, older adults, children and schools, migrant farm workers, Native Americans, and correctional facilities.

Katz, Bill, ed. "The Reference Library User: Problems and Solutions." Theme issue of *The Reference Librarian* 31 (1990): 1-151.

Section II of this issue, "Special Populations in the Library," describes programs and discusses policies for meeting the needs of the deinstitutionalized, older adults, and the learning disabled.

Lesley, J. Ingrid. "Library Services for Special User Groups." In *The Bowker Annual Library and Book Trade Almanac*, 25-37. 37th ed. New Providence, NJ: R. R. Bowker, 1992.

Innovative services to immigrants, latchkey children, the unemployed, the homeless, and the disabled.

Services to Preschool Children and Their Caregivers

Jones, Trudy, and Sally Schwarzlose. "The Changing Preschool World: One Library's Efforts to Work with Local Agencies to Serve the Preschool Community." *Illinois Libraries* 72 (Feb. 1990): 176-78.

Roving readers and materials delivery to day-care homes.

Krell, Denise, and Connie Pottle. "Services for Adult Caregivers of the Very Young Child." *Journal of Youth Services in Libraries* 3 (Winter 1990): 134-38.

Program ideas and service models for adults who live or work with children aged birth to five.

Marino, Jane, and Dorothy F. Houlihan. *Mother Goose Time: Library Programs for Babies and Their Caregivers*. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1992.

Practical guide to infant programming.

Services to Latchkey and Daycare Children

Adamec, Janet. "Homework Helpers: Making Study Time Quality Time." *Wilson Library Bulletin* 65 (Sept. 1990): 31-32.

Library volunteers help latchkey children with homework after school.

Bush, Margaret A. "Extending Our Reach: Library Services for Special Groups of Children." In *Lands of Pleasure: Essays on Lillian H. Smith and the Development of Children's Libraries*, edited by Adele M. Fasick, Margaret Johnston, and Ruth Osler, 71-83. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1990. Identifies types of children who need library programs (daycare, latchkey, recent immigrants, etc.) and offers illustrations of programs currently in place.

Dowd, Frances Smardo. *Latchkey Children in the Library and Community: Issues, Strategies, and Programs*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1991. A comprehensive treatment of the social issue of latchkey children and library services designed to help them.

Strickland, Charlene. "Intergenerational Reading: Encouraging the Grandlap." *Wilson Library Bulletin* 65 (Dec. 1990): 46-48, 164-65. Senior citizen volunteers help with children's services.

Services to Youthful Offenders

Oiye, Julie Ann. "Full Time, Multi-Media Service to Juvenile Hall Patrons." In *The Voya Reader*, edited by Dorothy M. Broderick, 201-5. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1990. King County, Washington, supports a library in its Youth Services Center.

Sasges, Judy, and Mary Moore. "Juvenile Hall Library Service on a Part-time Basis." In *The Voya Reader*, edited by Dorothy M. Broderick, 193-100. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1990. The Stanislaus County Free Library in Modesto, California, offers library services to juveniles in the county's youth detention center.

Services to Senior Citizens

Gross, Ron, and others. *How to Serve Seniors in Your Community By Meeting Their Needs for Mental Stimulation, Delight, and Empowerment: Lively Minds Manual*. Uniondale, NY: Nassau Library System, 1990. ERIC document ED 338 233. A public library system's weekly continuing education programs designed for older adults.

Services to the Physically and Mentally Challenged

Day, John Michael. "Guidelines for Library Services to Deaf People: Development and Interpretation." *IFLA Journal* 18, no. 1 (1992): 31-36. Policy and service considerations for patrons with the "invisible handicap."

"Library Services for Persons with Handicaps." Special theme issue of *Illinois Libraries* 72 (Apr. 1990): 311-410. Brief descriptions of a number of programs.

Powell, Faye. "A Library Center for Disabled Students." *College & University Research Libraries News* no. 5 (May 1990): 418-20. Description of a program at Portland State University.

Rosen, Leslie, and others. "Enabling Blind and Visually Impaired Library Users: INMAGIC and Adaptive Technologies." *Library Hi-Tech* 9, no. 3 (1991): 45-61. Describes technological advances such as the database management system INMAGIC being used by the library of the American Foundation for the Blind.

Wright, Kieth C., and Judith F. Davie. *Library Manager's Guide to Hiring and Serving Disabled Persons*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1990. Covers staff development and physical facilities as well as public services.

Services to Minorities

Boydston, Jeanne M. K. "Hiring Practices, Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action in ARL Libraries." *Journal of Library Administration* 14, no. 4 (1991): 17-35. A survey of ways ARL (Association of Research Libraries) libraries develop a candidate pool (including advertising in a wide variety of minority/ethnic special interest publications) and review applications.

Speller, Benjamin F., Jr., ed. *Educating Black Librarians: Papers from the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the School of Library and Information Sciences*. North Carolina Central University. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1991. Includes essays on recruiting minority students, recruiting and retaining minority librarians in academic libraries, and the role of library schools in the recruitment of international students.

Services to Immigrants and Migrant Workers

Craver, Kathleen W. "Bridging the Gap: Library Services for Immigrant Populations." *Journal of Youth Services in Libraries* 4 (Summer 1991): 123-30.

Describes public library services to the immigrant community.

Jones, Plummer Alston, Jr. "Cultural Oasis or Ethnic Ghetto?: The North Carolina Foreign Language Center and Statewide Multilingual Public Library Service." *North Carolina Libraries* 50 (Summer 1992): 100-105.

Describes a special public-supported library providing on a statewide basis foreign language materials for speakers of foreign languages, including immigrants and migrant workers in North Carolina.

Plessner, Joan. "The Fruits of Their Labors." *American Libraries* 23 (Mar. 1992): 256-57.
Public library services to Hispanic farmworkers.

Services to the Homeless

Lesley, J. Ingrid. "The Homeless in the Public Library." In *Libraries and Information Services Today*, 12-22. Chicago: American Library Association, 1991.

Discusses the social phenomenon of the homeless and library programs throughout the country designed to help this special population. Article quotes former North Carolina librarian Patsy Hansel, who believes it is appropriate "to designate the (public) library as a referral agent for persons with survival information needs if the library has the resources and the commitment to do the job well."

Services to Gays and Lesbians

Gough, Cal, and Ellen Greenblatt. *Gay and Lesbian Library Service*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1990. While the emphasis is on collection development issues, policies for displays and meeting rooms are also discussed. Excellent appendices of core resources, publishers and bookstores, and AIDS literature. Contains ALA Policies on Sexual Orientation and the Library Bill of Rights.

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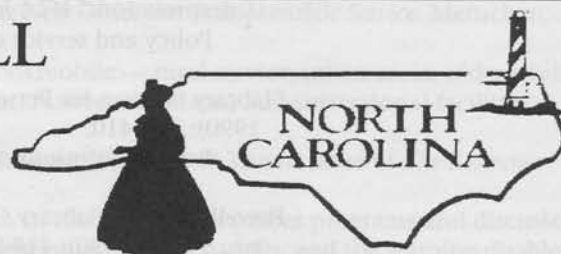
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Services to the Unemployed

Martins, Ed. "JOBLINC: Job-Help Bus Delivers Needed Information." *Tennessee Librarian* 43 (Spring 1991): 5-7.

Memphis-Shelby County Public Library's mobile job information readiness center goes to the high unemployment neighborhoods and to businesses that are laying off workers, where staff help prepare resumes and cover letters, and answer questions about job openings and other job-related subjects.

AIDS Programs

Cowen, Sue, and R. Wright Rix. "Starting Up Your Own HIV/AIDS Collection: A Case Study." *Reference Services Review* 19, no. 2 (1991): 39-44, 76.

The County of Los Angeles Public Library worked with government and nonprofit organizations to establish an AIDS information center. Includes an annotated bibliography.

Shay, Anthony. "AIDS Education in the Los Angeles Public Library." *Library Journal* 115 (Oct. 15, 1990): 59-60.

The Los Angeles Public Library AIDS Anti-Discrimination Task Force, composed of library employees at all levels, developed a comprehensive education program on AIDS as a preventable epidemic and its impact on the workplace. All library employees have participated in the program.

Intellectual Freedom

American Library Association. Office for Intellectual Freedom. *Intellectual Freedom Manual*. 4th ed. Chicago: American Library Association, 1992.

The old standby has been updated. Contains policy statements on access, circulation, exhibit space and meeting rooms, freedom to read, library record confidentiality, materials selection, challenged materials, and labeling of materials.

Literacy Programs

Salter, Jeffrey L., and Charles A. Salter. *Literacy and the Library*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1991.

This excellent handbook discusses illiteracy, its causes and effects, and what libraries can do to combat it. Includes sections on materials for adult new readers and suggestions for programs. Appendices of organizations, sample material, and a bibliography.

Segel, Elizabeth, and John Brest Friedberg. "Widening the Circle: The Beginning with Books Model; Prevention-Oriented Literacy Program Affiliated with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh." *Horn Book* 67 (Mar./Apr. 1991): 186-89.

The library works with agencies such as Head Start, well baby clinics, teen parenting programs, drug and child abuse programs, and homeless shelters to distribute a packet of three paperback books and a coupon to get another free book at the library.

Talan, Carole. "Family Literacy: Libraries Doing What Libraries Do Best." *Wilson Library Bulletin* 65 (Nov. 1990): 30-32, 158.

Promotes library literacy programs which are family-centered and intergenerational.



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