African Diaspora LIS Leadership
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It began at the edge of our homeland, where verdant forest and tropical bush gave way gradually to the sandy stretches of the Guineas, from the northern point where Senegal and the Gambia pour their troubled streams into the water around Cape Verde, down the thousands of miles of coastline to the place where the mighty river Congo breaks out into the concern. On these shores near the mouths of these rivers, we first saw the ships.....that brutal connections between the vast, potentially
profitable sources of captive labor in Africa, became the critical nexus in the minds of Europe’s ruling and commercial classes, as they anticipated the wealth and power these human and physical resources would bring to them, out of that combination of vision, enterprise, and avarice, the African slave trade was born.” The creation of African Diaspora”. Vincent Harding.
“One people divided by geographic and several decades of different experience”

Vincent Harding
Many challenges of exclusion and access to libraries to their communities and maintaining their own relevance as equal partners as library professionals.
Thomas Fountain Blue,
Susan Dart Butler,
Sadie Peterson Delaney,
George Washington Forbes,
Daniel A. P. Murray,
S.W. Starks and
Edward Christopher Williams.
The struggle for recognition, professionalism and inclusion.

Before 1960 passing of the civil rights law, African America librarians had to fight their way into the profession for recognition and inclusion at many instants through closed doors of local educational and professional associations.
“the rights of an individual to the use of library should not be denied or abridged because of his race religion, national origin or political views.”

Eric Moon
“within few years, we were able to clean our professional house so rapidly was due primarily to the moral force which E. J. Josey brought to the endeavor.”

Eric Moon
Deans of educational and library service institutions, professional associations leaders at the local, national, and international arena.
Major African American Leadership personalities in library and Information Profession.

- Dr. Virginia Lacy Jones
- Clara Stanton Jones
- Dr. E. J. Josey
- Congressman Major Owens:
  - Dr. Annette L. Phinazee
- Lucille C. Thomas
African and African Caribbean Leadership in the United Kingdom

• Shiraz Durani

• Ann Thompson
Leadership in Library Education

- Institutional leadership
- Individual leadership
Leadership in Library Education

• The Hampton Institute
• Atlanta University/Clark Atlanta University
• North Carolina Central University
LIS Diaspora Organizational Leadership

1. To call to the attention of the ALA the need to respond positively on behalf of the black members of the Association.

2. To review the records and evaluate the positions of candidates for the various offices within the ALA.

3. To monitor the activities of the divisions, Roundtables and Committees of the ALA, to make sure they are meeting the needs of the black librarian

4. To serve as a clearinghouse for black librarians in promoting wider participation by black librarians at all levels of the profession and the Association.
5. To support and promote efforts to achieve meaningful communication and equitable representation in state associations and on the governing and advisory boards of libraries at the state and local levels.

6. To facilitate library service, which will meet the information needs of black people.

7. To encourage the development of authoritative information resources about black people and the dissemination of this information to the larger community. (Membership Directory...
What is a caucus?

It is a closed meeting of a group of persons belonging to the same political party or faction – usually for the purpose of deciding on policy.”
“The African Exchange Program”.
Diaspora Librarians leadership in UK

The African Caribbean Library Association (ACLA),
1984 Kenya Library Association and BCALA Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.

• The planned pre-conference was held August 13-15 at the Kenyatta Conference Center.

• Thirty African American Librarians and forty Kenyan librarians from Kenya Library Association (KLA) including librarians from Nigeria, Uganda and the United Kingdom participated.
Conclusion and Recommendation

• Now it is time that attention should be given to connect with African librarians and build strong leadership organization across the border. This leadership will be beneficial in sharing skills, resources, and ideas and will strengthen their positions in global librarianship.

• Therefore, I will strongly recommend the revival of the 1972 expert exchange project and in the spirit of 1984 Nairobi pre-conference of African and African-American and African American librarians joint conference should be initiated in the near future as soon as possible to re-connect the Diaspora library leadership and African librarianship.
Thank You