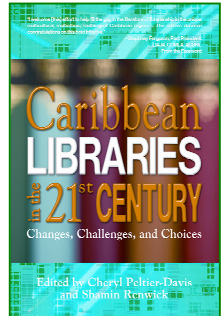


NEWS RELEASE



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Caribbean Libraries in the 21st Century

Award-Winning Anthology Chronicles the Changes, Challenges, and Choices Facing Libraries and Librarians in Many Caribbean Countries

June 23, 2007 Washington, D.C. —At the annual meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) being held at the Washington Convention Center this week, Information Today, Inc. (ITI) announced the publication of a new book, *Caribbean Libraries in the 21st Century: Changes, Challenges, and Choices*, edited by Cheryl Peltier-Davis and Shamin Renwick.

Although libraries have been a part of the Caribbean landscape since the 18th century, Caribbean librarianship can be said to have made its debut during the mid-20th century when Caribbean librarians with professional certification began to develop all types of library services for the region. In *Caribbean Libraries in the 21st Century*, editors Cheryl Peltier-Davis and Shamin Renwick and more than 40 contributors bring the current state of these libraries into sharp focus.

Stephney Ferguson, Past President of the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL), described the new book as “an eclectic mix of topics, approaches and styles.” Ferguson, who contributed the book’s foreword, said, “Topics include the traditional public school, public, academic, and special libraries as well as the challenges associated with modern technological applications and the issues involved in the delivery of services in the modern information environment.”

Editors Peltier-Davis and Renwick enlisted more than 40 practitioners to produce 25 chapters addressing the myriad obstacles and opportunities facing Caribbean libraries. The book begins by providing historical perspective followed by coverage of trends, projects, and issues in library management, innovative services, integration and impact of information technology, cooperation and resource sharing, training library users, distance education, and the role of the 21st-century librarian.

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According to Peltier-Davis and Renwick, topics were chosen to satisfy the interests of a wide range of individuals, from students of international libraries in schools of library and information science, to librarians in developing countries who face similar challenges, to practitioners who follow developments in library and information work in different parts of the world. They said their goal was to produce a book that informs, educates, and stimulates discussion among librarians and other information professionals about strategic directions for libraries in the Caribbean region and elsewhere.

Editors Honored at Leading Caribbean Library Association Conference

On June 8, 2007, at the meeting of the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) in Puerto Rico, Cheryl Peltier-Davis and Shamin Renwick were honored for their achievement in producing *Caribbean Libraries in the 21st Century*. Named "ACURILEAN Stars," the editors were two of five individuals presented with ACURIL's coveted award for Excellence in Research and Publication 2007.

ALA Book Signing to Celebrate Book Launch

Editor Cheryl Peltier-Davis will sign copies of *Caribbean Libraries in the 21st Century* at the Information Today, Inc. booth (#814) at the ALA conference on Monday, June 25 from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. Copies will be available for the first time at any mainland U.S. venue at a 20 percent discount throughout the event.

Cheryl Peltier-Davis is Associate Cataloging Librarian at the Alvin Sherman Library, Research and Information Technology Center at Nova Southeastern University in Florida. She is co-chair of the Special Interest Group for Academic Libraries in the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL). **Shamin Renwick** is head of the Multimedia and Information Technology Unit, Medical Sciences Library, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. She is a Past President of ACURIL, 2003–2004.

Caribbean Libraries in the 21st Century: Changes, Challenges, and Choices (416 pp/hardbound/\$49.50/ISBN 978-157387-301-7) is published by Information Today, Inc. It is available in bookstores and direct from the publisher by calling (800) 300-9868 [outside the U.S., call (609) 654-6266]; faxing (609) 654-4309; e-mailing custserv@infotoday.com; or visiting the ITI Web site at www.infotoday.com.

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