

FORWARD:
DIVERSITY IN INDIANA LIBRARIES

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We have become not a melting pot, but a beautiful mosaic, different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.

Jimmy Carter

Diversity, what does the word mean to you? How does the term influence your library? Does it denote:

Having various Spanish language items for a clearly increasing Spanish population?

Providing Spanish, Russian, or Slavic language books for children, adolescents, and adults on a variety of topics?

Making available foreign language newspapers, magazines and videos?

A bilingual or culturally diverse staff?

Supporting V.I.T.A.L. (Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners) or ESL (English as a Second Language) programs?

Celebrating Martin Luther King Day?

Planning a month of events for Women's History Month?

Decorating the library for Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanza?

Diversity can encompass many areas of academic and public libraries. The very freedom of the term allows libraries wide latitude in their holdings and events to celebrate the cultures of their communities. How can libraries increase diversity for their patrons?

Mentor high school or college age students as future librarians

Build your collections for children and adults—include a variety of items and formats

Increase library displays and presentations to feature holidays and cultures

Ask foreign culture associations in your community to present programs or create displays highlighting cultural events

Start V.I.T.A.L. or ESL classes in your library

Offer diversity training to staff and faculty in your library

The articles in this publication present unique ideas and challenging programs; read about the libraries in Indiana and how they are working to increase diversity within their walls—then open your library doors to everyone in your community.