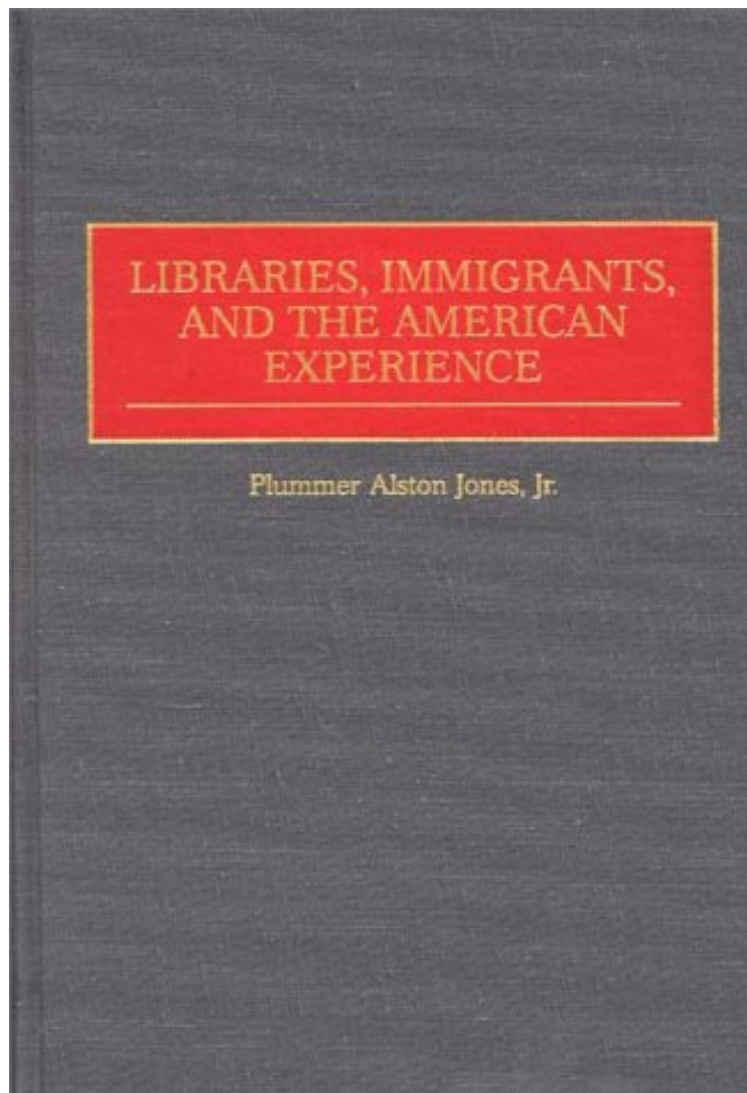


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Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience: (Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science)

Plummer A. Jones

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Plummer A. Jones : Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience: (Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience: (Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Unique and Informative Journey through Library HistoryBy

Rebecca Maddox Journey through the passages of library history with Plummer Alston Jones, Jr.'s "Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience". Every chapter of this well researched book provides insight into the American immigration experience and its affects on the public library profession. By delving deep into the recesses of library history, Jones reminds librarians of their commitment to serving immigrants. Logically laid out, this book first provides the reader with chapters describing the political and social atmospheres of the time periods of free and restricted immigration. Jones then smoothly transitions into biographical chapters that describe the illustrious careers of librarians Jane Maud Campbell, John Foster Carr, Eleanor (Edwards) Ledbetter, and Edna Phillips. Within these biographies we learn not only of the service philosophies of these librarians but also of the challenges that propelled them to create innovative immigrant programs that have influenced and expanded the services that public libraries provide to ethnic communities today. Throughout this book one can also learn more about the role of the American Library Association in the Americanization and assimilation of immigrants. Written in a style that serves the needs of those interested in historical information, this book can at times be a challenge in that the author extends the list of details almost to the breaking point. Nevertheless, it is in seeing those detailed lists of public libraries that developed immigrant programs that the true reflections of the magnitude of immigration in American libraries is exhibited. Black and white historical photography dot the landscape of this book, making for a visually pleasing accompaniment to the text. Readers will also be delighted by the selected bibliography that provides ready access to historical information. Although the tapestry of America's immigrant population has changed since the time of Jane Maud Campbell, John Foster Carr, Eleanor (Edwards) Ledbetter, and Edna Phillips the basic service issues that challenged these librarians are timeless. Public librarians and managers can look to this book as a generator for ideas and for the courage needed to develop innovative programs. I found this book enlightening and would recommend it to any librarian concerned with better serving the information needs of their multicultural communities.

From 1876 to 1924 a period of free immigration the mission of the American public library in its work with immigrants was to Americanize the immigrants by teaching them English and preparing them for citizenship. From 1924 to 1948 a period of restricted immigration the mission of the American public library in its work with immigrants was to educate the adult immigrant and to internationalize the American community. Together, the public library and the immigrant community have shaped and perpetuated the national understanding of the value of ethnicity and internationalism to American society. The American public librarians took on the roles of advocates for immigrant rights, social workers, propagandists for the American way, and educators. At the end of the twentieth century, as at the beginning, Americans are still debating the place of immigrants in American society. Public librarians are now as they were then, going about their duties and responsibilities of providing advice and materials to help immigrants, legal and illegal, cope with everyday life in America. The American public library has remained a sovereign alchemist, turning the base metal of immigrant potentialities into the gold of American realities.

"This study based upon extensive primary and secondary sources, provides a sound analysis of this important topic and is the most extensive examination of the subject to date. By firmly rooting his discussion of library services in the context of the historical and political atmosphere of the period, the author provides a work relevant to the history of both libraries and immigration. This work, based upon Jones' doctoral dissertation, would be an addition of lasting value to any library science or U.S. immigration collection."-Reference User Services Quarterly "[A] thoughtful well-documented new volume. It is nicely illustrated and contains a good index."-College Research Libraries... "the first comprehensive treatment of librarians' attitude toward immigrants over a lengthy time span.... a very important book. It is worthy of inclusion in any academic library."-Libraries Cultures "The interaction between American public libraries and immigrant communities is, of course, not new, and some of its history may be found in Plummer Alston Jones Jr.'s thoughtful, well-documented new volume. It is nicely illustrated and contains a good index."-College Research Libraries "Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience is an excellent addition to the annals of library history and is also recommended for educators, social workers, and those interested in the topic of immigration. Jones' portrayal of librarians as pioneers, humanitarians, and philanthropists is well supported by both primary and secondary sources, for which he provides an excellent bibliography and index."-Library and Information Science Research "A thoughtful well-documented new volume. It is nicely illustrated and contains a good index."-College Research Libraries "[A] thoughtful well-documented new volume. It is nicely illustrated and contains a good index."-College Research Libraries "...the first comprehensive treatment of librarians' attitude toward immigrants over a lengthy time span.... a very important book. It is worthy of inclusion in any academic library."-Libraries Cultures "The interaction between American public libraries and immigrant communities is, of course, not new, and some of its history may be found in Plummer Alston Jones Jr.'s thoughtful, well-documented new volume. It is nicely illustrated and contains a good index."-College Research Libraries "Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience is an excellent addition to the annals of library history and is also recommended for educators, social workers, and those interested in the topic of immigration. Jones' portrayal of librarians as pioneers, humanitarians, and philanthropists is well supported by both primary and secondary sources, for which he provides an excellent bibliography and index."-Library and Information

Science Research? This study based upon extensive primary and secondary sources, provides a sound analysis of this important topic and is the most extensive examination of the subject to date. By firmly rooting his discussion of library services in the context of the historical and political atmosphere of the period, the author provides a work relevant to the history of both libraries and immigration. This work, based upon Jones' doctoral dissertation, would be an addition of lasting value to any library science or U.S. immigration collection.?-Referenc User Services Quarterly., "the first comprehensice treatment of librarians' attitude toward immigrants over a lengthy time span....a very important book. It is worthy of inclusion in any academic library."-Libraries Cultures About the Author PLUMMER ALSTON JONES, JR. is Associate Professor of Library Science, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina. He received the first biennial Phyllis Dain Library History Dissertation Award in 1993 from the ALA Library History Round Table for his dissertation, American Public Library Services to the Immigrant Community, 1876-1948. His book, Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience, was published in 1999 by Greenwood Press. For his service as North Carolina Library Association President (1999-2001) and on the State Library Commission (1997-2001), he was made a member of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by North Carolina Governor Michael F. Easley in 2002. He was presented the 2004 David Cohen/EMIERT Multicultural Award by the ALA Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table for his research and publications on multiculturalism in libraries.