

ACKNOWLEDGING HISTORY IN ORDER TO DISRUPT IT: UNEARTHING THE SEGREGATED HISTORY OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Nicole A. Cooke
 Assistant Professor
 MS/LIS Program Director
 School of Information
 Sciences
 The University of Illinois
 @LibraryNicole

OUR TALK TODAY

- How I came to this topic
- A brief history of segregation in LIS
- An example of segregation's legacy: The Carnegie Scholars
- The challenges of doing this research
 - How digital humanities can help us tell more of these stories





LIS HISTORY: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

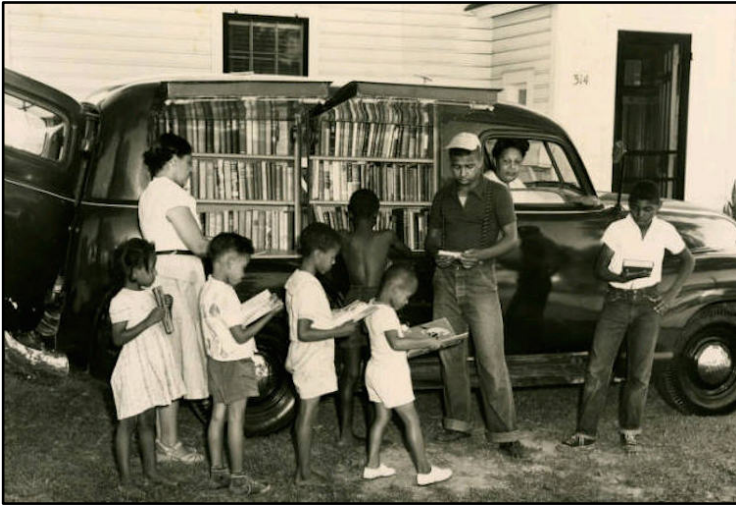
Children looking at the
window display in the
Asheville Colored Public
Library
North Carolina Department
of Cultural Resources via
North Carolina Digital
Heritage Center

ACKNOWLEDGING THE HISTORY IN ORDER TO DISRUPT IT



- Dumont, R. R. (1986). The educating of black librarians: An historical perspective. *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, 26(4), 233-249.
- Malone, C. K. (2000). Toward a multicultural American public library history. *Libraries & Culture*, 35(1), 77-87.
- Knott, C. (2016). *Not free, not for all: Public libraries in the age of Jim Crow*. University of Massachusetts Press.
- Wiegand, W. A. (2017). "Any Ideas?" The American Library Association and the Desegregation of Public Libraries in the American South. *Libraries: Culture, History, and Society*, 1(1), 1-22.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE HISTORY IN ORDER TO DISRUPT IT



- 1905 – the Brevard Street Library for Negroes opens in Charlotte as an independent institution. It is the first public library for blacks in NC.
- 1925-1939 – the Hampton Library Institute Library School
- 1929 – ALA issued a survey to library school directors
- 1936 - ALA conference segregated according to Virginia laws
 - Creation of the Committee on Racial Discrimination
- 1960 - The Greenville (SC) Eight staged a sit-in to integrate the library
 - Sit-ins in Greensboro, NC and Petersburg, VA
- 1970 – enactment of Title II-B Fellowship of the Higher Education Act of 1965



Cooke, N. A. (2017). The GSLS Carnegie Scholars: Guests in Someone Else's House. *Libraries: Culture, History, and Society*, 1(1), 46-71.

**THE CARNEGIE
SCHOLARS
FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM**

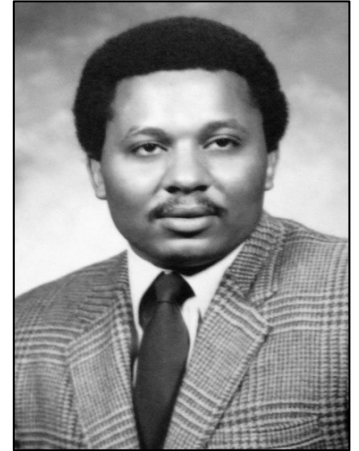
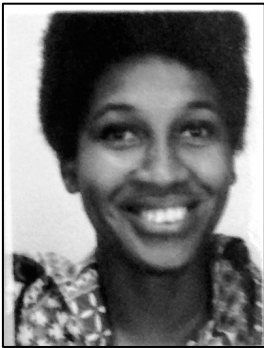
HISTORICAL CONTEXT



Project 500 in 1967
(Copyright Illini Media/1973 Illio)



The Carnegies Scholars 1970-1972
(Photo courtesy of Jewel Player)



DATE ISSUED: [REDACTED] NUMBER: [REDACTED]

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA, ILLINOIS
STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

[REDACTED]

8087/S
THIS IS FOR NO ONLY

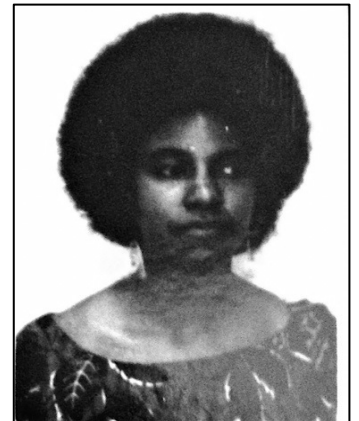
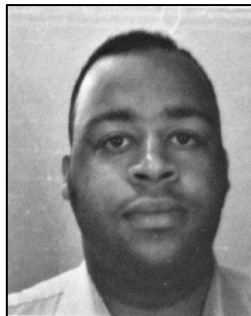
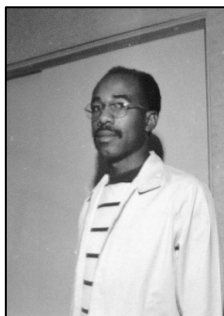
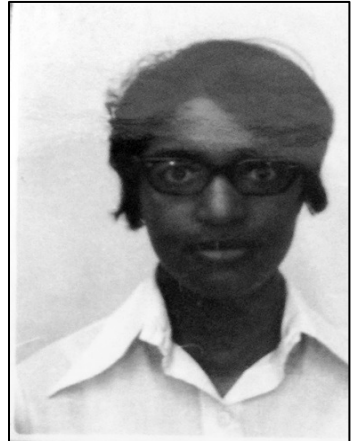
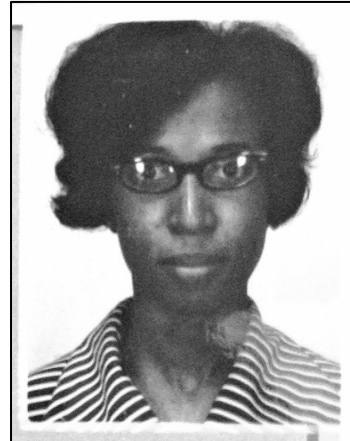
URH Sherman 420
LOCAL ADDRESS (PRINT)

1970-71

Charles E. Howard
DIRECTOR
ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
ALTERATION OF THIS CARD WILL BE REASON FOR
IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY



FACULTY RATING OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Name: _____

Course L.S. 450J Advanced Studies in Librarianship

Please comment on qualities which characterized the student's performance in your class and/or qualities which might indicate his potential for a successful career in librarianship. A student's appearance, personality and general manner may be noted, as well as his creativity and effectiveness in speaking or writing.

Attractive & well groomed — outgoing young person with definite leadership ability. Very creative in activities related to work with young adults. Lacks self-direction — needs to have definite deadlines set — & then needs reminding. Has great future in the profession.

Date

2-2-72

Signature _____

Assoc. Professor

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

FACULTY RATING OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Name: 


Course L.S. 450G Neighborhood Information Systems

Please comment on qualities which characterized the student's performance in your class and/or qualities which might indicate his potential for a successful career in librarianship. A student's appearance, personality and general manner may be noted, as well as his creativity and effectiveness in speaking or writing.

Keeps to own group;

Date

8/18/71

Signature 

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

FACULTY RATING OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE
Course

L.S. 406 Library Service to Children
and Young Adults.

Name: [REDACTED]

Please comment on qualities which characterized the student's performance in your class and/or qualities which might indicate his potential for a successful career in librarianship. A student's appearance, personality and general manner may be noted, as well as his creativity and effectiveness in speaking or writing.

Tall, average build. African hair do. Black young woman in
Carnegie program.

Was not a strong student in my course, lacks much
background and experience in the school library field. Has
taught in New Mexico. Librarian and schools; inadequate
was receptive to suggestions, tried hard. Needs to work under
supervision to do practical work first if possible. Does
have interest in elementary school lib. field.

Date

August
14 June 1971

Signature [REDACTED]

GRADUATE
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FACULTY RATING OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Name: [REDACTED]

Statement based on work in L.S. 405 Library Administration
(course number and title)

Qualities	Above		Below		No Basis
	Superior	Average	Average	Average	
Appearance		X			
Manner		X			
Ability to work with others					X
Initiative				X	
Originality			X		
Effectiveness in speaking			X		
Effectiveness in written expression				X	
Performance in this course				X	

OBSERVATIONS

[REDACTED] is an intelligent young man but he apparently was not interested in this course. His performance was far below his capacity.

Date

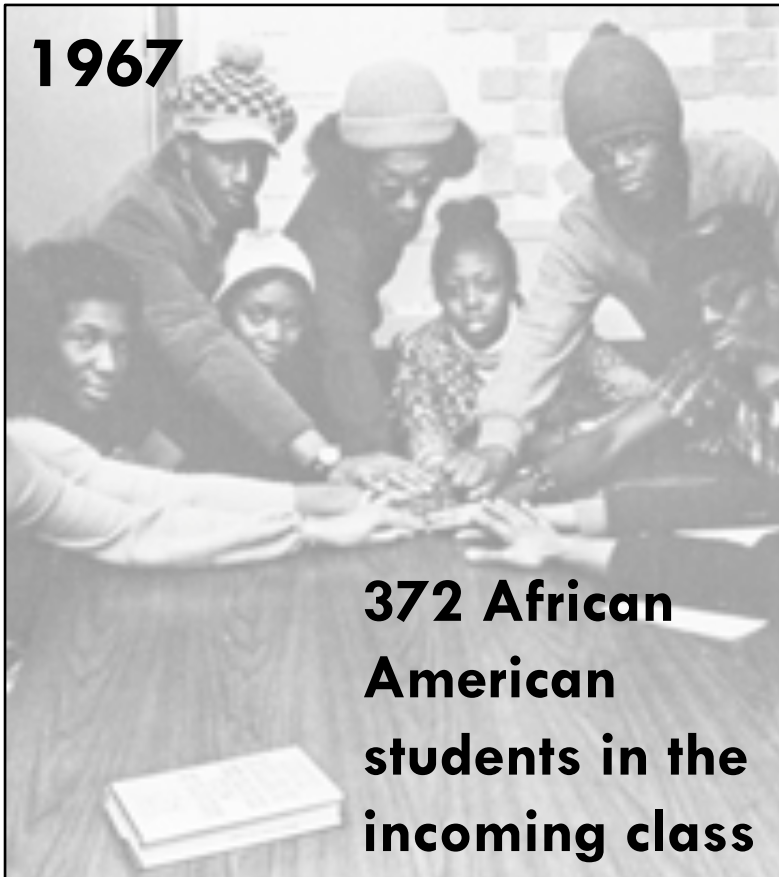
2-4-71

Signature

[REDACTED]

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

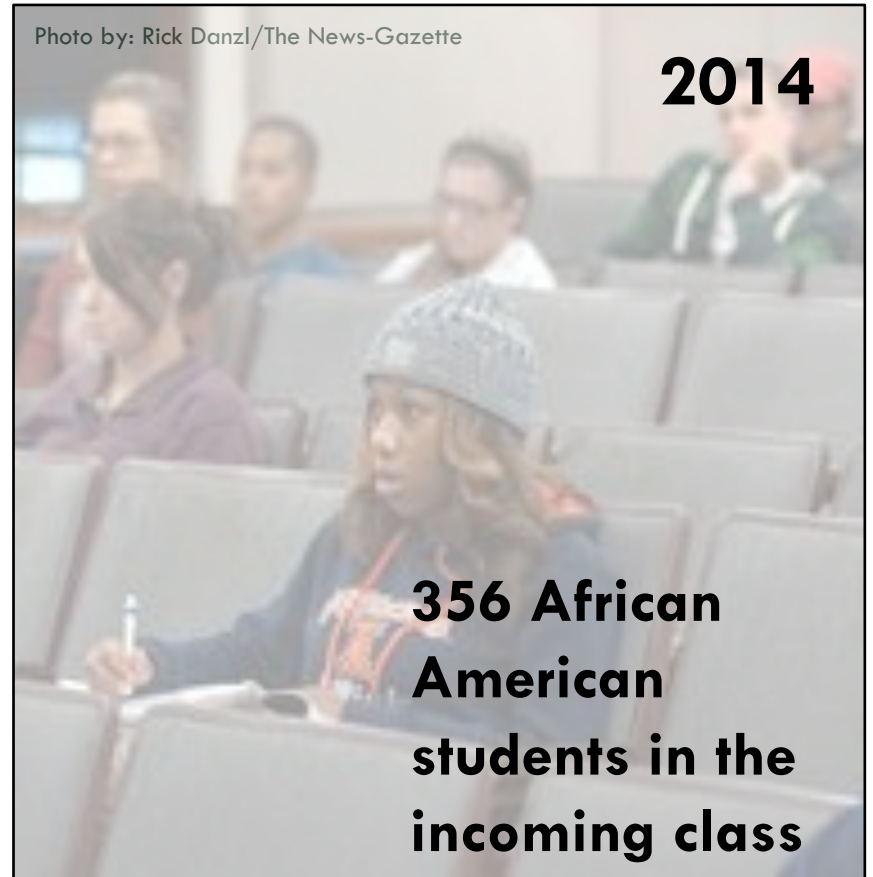
1967



**372 African
American
students in the
incoming class**

Photo by: Rick Danzl/The News-Gazette

2014



**356 African
American
students in the
incoming class**

THE CHALLENGE OF UNEARTHING COMPLICATED STORIES

- What information is valued, collected, processed, and promoted?
- Power and Gatekeeping
- Skilling of New Professionals

Archives at once protect and preserve records; legitimize and sanctify certain documents while negating and destroying others; and provide access to selected sources while controlling the researchers and conditions under which they may examine the archive record.

Introduction to
Jimerson, R. C. (2009). *Archives Power: Memory, Accountability, and Social Justice*. Society of American Archivists.

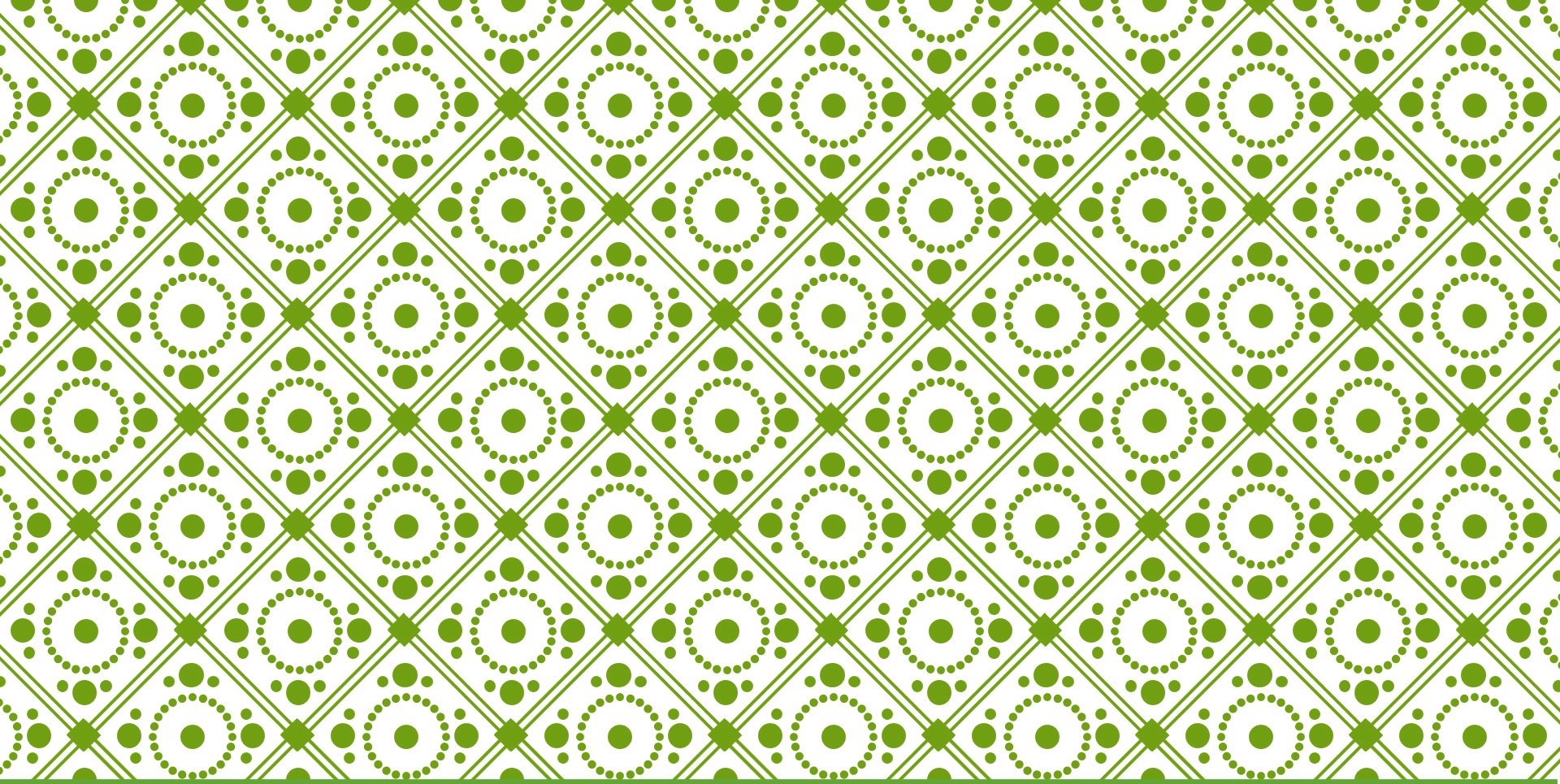
"THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING MORE TO BE WRITTEN...
SOMETHING THAT MUST BE REMEMBERED, SOMETHING THAT
CANNOT BE FORGOTTEN." - DIONNE BRAND



Lillian Lopez the first Puerto Rican
to hold an administrative position
at the New York Public Library



Dr. Robert Wedgeworth
UIUC University Librarian, 1993-1999
Dean of the Columbia SLS, 1985-1992
Executive Director of the ALA, 1972-1985



@LibraryNicole

nacooke@illinois.edu

<http://ischool.illinois.edu>

THANK YOU!