Letters

To the Editor:

Cliff Glaviano and R. Errol Lam ("Academic Libraries and Affirmative Action" [C&RL, Nov. 1990]) have developed a compelling presentation of current failures to develop a broad pool of culturally diverse academic librarians. However, their assertion that the literature has been barren ignores two important recent contributions: Ann Knight Randall, "Minority Recruitment in Librarianship," in Librarians for the New Millennium, p. 11–25 (edited by William E. Moen and Kathleen M. Heim, Chicago: ALA, 1988) and the chapter, "Ethnicity" in Occupational Entry, by Kathleen M. Heim and William E. Moen, p. 115–139 (Chicago, ALA, 1989). These two contributions, supported by an ALA Goal Award, were intended to address personnel shortages—shortages of minority personnel.

The Millennium volume also delineates the substance of hearings and forums sponsored by the ALA Office for Library Personnel Resources from 1987–1989 to address issues relating to the need for diversity in the library workforce. While the profession has experienced dismal success in changing the overall ethnic composition of library staff, the ALA OLPR initiatives under the direction of Margaret Myers devoted much time and commitment to addressing issues and presenting data and strategies. Those who require data and analysis are directed to the OLPR publications mentioned above, which are available from the OLPR office.

KATHLEEN M. HEIM
Professor, School of Library and Information Science
Dean, Graduate School, Louisiana State University

To the Editor:

Randall R. Butler’s pH investigation of acquisitions at Brigham Young University (C&RL, Nov. 1990) is a model of clarity that merits replication. His inclusion, however, omits one essential source of oversight and control, namely the media that report and review new titles. Many of these, working from proofs or perhaps beholding to publishers, fail to inform their audience of the acidity issue, much less test and report pH.


Sure some publishers don’t like it (to the point of refusing us review copies on those grounds!), but what’s right is right. Now if Choice and others serving a library audience would just take note.

ROBERT COHEN
Associate Editor
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