An authoritative and readable biography, Shiflett has reintroduced Louis Shores to the library world. His ideas will continue to generate discussion in library schools and among library historians.—Anne Rothfeld, University of Maryland.


This is a collection of essays focused on a variety of topics in international librarianship dedicated to the memory of Peter Harvard-Williams, British librarian and library educator who had an impact on the profession far beyond the United Kingdom. Harvard-Williams worked at a number of institutions in Britain as well as in Canada, New Zealand, and Botswana. He carried out many consulting assignments for UNESCO and the Council of Europe that had an impact on a much greater number of countries, particularly in Africa. His work in the Library Association and IFLA was wide-ranging, and he was especially instrumental in the IFLA translation service as it affected Africa. In 1972, Harvard-Williams arrived at Loughborough University as the first head of the newly established Department of Library and Information Studies, and remained there until his retirement in 1987. In retirement, Harvard-Williams served as professor of library and information studies at the University of Botswana.

There are nine essays in this work, a foreword, and a eulogy delivered at Harvard-Williams’s funeral in 1995. Of the essays, the majority focus on issues of librarianship and library education in Africa and Asia. The contributors are primarily former students and colleagues at Loughborough. At Loughborough, a major component of the library education program Harvard-Williams built focused on students from the third world. The goal was not only to prepare library and information professionals, but also library and information educators. During Harvard-Williams’s tenure as department head, 450 students came from 63 countries to pursue degrees and 350 dissertations in library and information studies were completed.

The first essay, by Ann Irving, gives an overview to Harvard-Williams’s educational philosophy as it was manifested throughout his career. Numerous quotations from his writings clearly demonstrate his focus. Among the most important were a career-long emphasis on the library as a separate teaching entity within a broader academic institution and the education of library and information specialists in third-world countries. This essay makes a perfect introduction to the remaining contributions, each of which is a specific case study. It is in these case studies that one can see the impact Harvard-Williams had on the authors as they address topics that were of importance to Harvard-Williams.

Two of the essays, by Michel Menou and K. J. Mchombu, look at issues from a broad African perspective. Three others focus on specific issues related to different African countries, including Malawi by Paul Sturges, Ethiopia by David Baker, and Algeria by Behdja Bourmarifi. Other essays explore issues focused on Korea by Young Ai Um, Pakistan by Rafia Ahmad Sheikh, and France by Genevieve Patte.

All the essays are in-depth studies. Most are very well documented and include citations that can lead the reader to additional resources. They range in focus from a review of the political economy of information over a thirty-year period in Malawi, to an overview of library development in Korea, to a history of library development in Algeria. This collection makes a unique and important contribution to the literature of international librarianship.—David L. Easterbrook, Northwestern University.