

For Immediate Release  
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**First Phyllis Dain Library History Dissertation Award recipient named**

Plummer Alston Jones, Jr., head librarian/director of Learning Resources, Iris Holt McEwen Library/LaRose Resources Center at Elon College, N.C., is the first recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) Library History Round Table (LHRT) Phyllis Dain Library History Dissertation Award.

The award, \$500 and a certificate, will be given every two years to the author of an outstanding dissertation that embodies original research on a significant topic relating to the history of books, libraries, librarianship, or information science.

Jones received the award for his dissertation titled "American Public Library Service to the Immigrant Community, 1876-1948; A Bibliographical History of the Movement and its Leaders: Jane Maud Campbell (1869-1947), John Foster Carr (1869-1939), Eleanor (Edwards) Ledbetter (1870-1954), and Edna Phillips (1890-1954)."

"The LHRT Award Committee agreed that Dr. Jones' ambitious, well-documented study of service to immigrants represents an outstanding contribution to American library history," said Mary Niles Maack, chair of the Phyllis Dain Library History Dissertation Award Committee. "His work

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fully meets all the criteria specified by the award -- clear definition of the research questions, use of appropriate source materials, depth of research, superior quality of writing, ability to place the subject within its broader historical context and the significance of the conclusion."

In addition to conducting research in Cleveland, Boston and New York where he worked with archival materials related to the biographical portraits of these four library leaders, Jones also examined annual reports of 21 representative public library systems which served significantly large foreign-born populations. He notes that analysis of these reports from cities in 15 states throughout the United States "confirms not only the centrality but also the continuity of library service to immigrant clientele within the overall mission of the American public library."

"As a result of his thorough knowledge of the secondary literature, he has been able to clearly place the work of those who pioneered library service to immigrants within the context of contemporary historical and sociological research on the nature of immigrant communities," Maack said.

Jones' research, which was directed by Professor Edward Holley at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was carried out over an eight year period -- from the initial preparation of the proposal to the final completion of the dissertation.

He has worked as head librarian at North Carolina Wesleyan College; senior searcher/bibliographic assistant, Paley Library at Temple University, and library service assistant, School of Social Work Library at the University of Pennsylvania.

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**-- add two**

Jones is a member of the ALA LHRT, the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), two of ALA's divisions.

He is also a member of the North Carolina Library Association, College and University Section Executive Board; a member of the editorial board and editor of the "Lagniappe: North Caroliniana" column in North Carolina Libraries; a member of the Piedmont Independent College Association Library Directors' Group; a member of the North Carolina Center for Higher Education Library Directors' Group, and secretary and newsletter editor for the Friends of the Library of Elon College.

Jones has a bachelor's degree in music education from East Carolina University, a master's degree in library science from Drexel University and a doctorate in Information and Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The award will be presented during the ALA Annual Conference, June 24-July 1, in New Orleans.