Serving Diverse Virginia! A Library Orientation to New Virginians

Emma Ito, Library of Virginia & Cristina D. Ramirez, Henrico County Public Library Virginia has a sizeable immigrant community, making up more than 12 percent of the state's total population. One in eight Virginia residents is an immigrant. One in six Virginia workers is an immigrant, while foreign-born entrepreneurs account for more than a fifth of the state's self-employed business owners.

The top countries of origin for immigrants were El Salvador (10.6 percent of immigrants), India (8.1 percent), Korea (5.4 percent), Vietnam (5.2 percent), and Mexico (5.2 percent).



Between 2000 and 2015, Chesterfield County's Latinx population grew by 234%

From Chesterfield County Demographic Report of the Chesterfield County Planning Department

Richmond's population expected to become 1/3 Hispanic, top 250,000 by 2040





Of minority groups, Latinos or Hispanics are among the fastest-growing. A report from the Virginia Employment Commission projected that they will make up close to 16 percent of Henrico's population by 2040, outpacing the population growth of African-Americans and Asians. African-Americans are expected to comprise 28 percent of the county and Asians, 14 percent.





Richmond Times-Dispatcl

Why is Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion important for libraries?



The country's demographics are changing.
Libraries are a key community partner in helping
Immigrants acculturate, integrate, help with
schooling and education, workforce
development, and connect to resources that can
help them and their communities.

Diversity vs. Inclusion

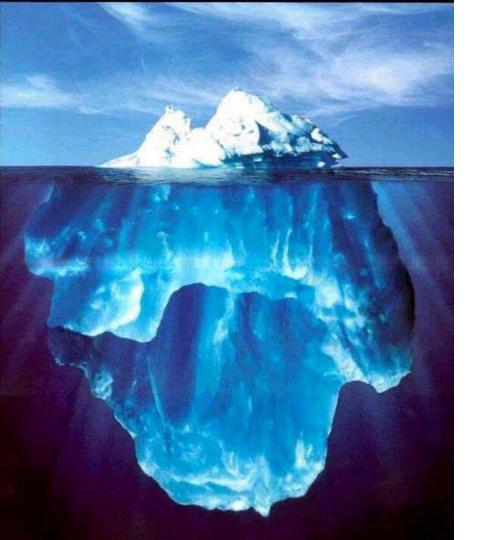
Diversity: Individual differences (e.g. personality) and group/social differences (e.g. race/ethnicity).

Inclusion: The active, intentional, and ongoing engagement with diversity in ways that increase awareness, content knowledge, cognitive sophistication, and empathic understanding of the complex ways individuals interact within systems and institutions.



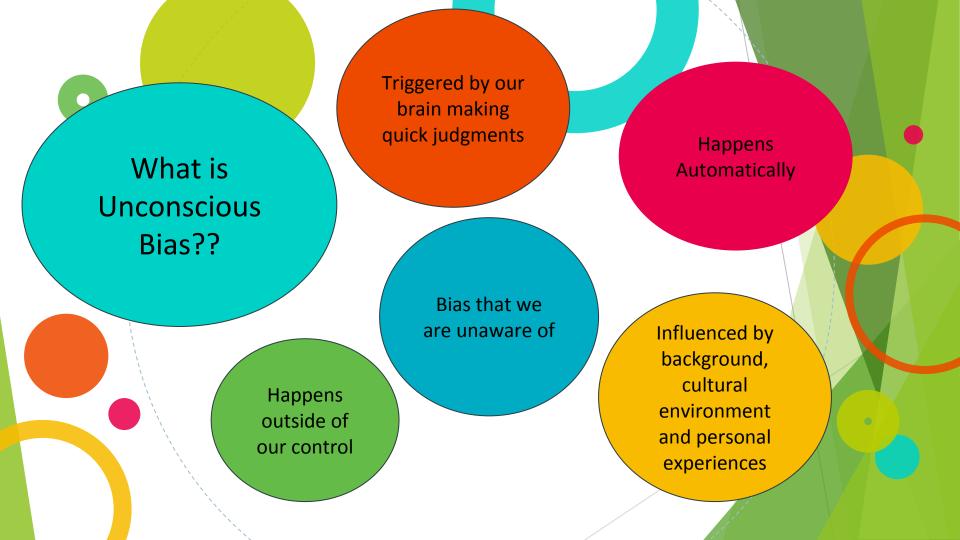
Bias is prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair.

Bias



Conscious Beliefs

Unconscious Beliefs





What Unconscious Bias Look like

Similar to me effect- rating people First impression effect- Making similar to you more highly than others initial positive/negative judgment and allowing it to

Leniency bias- "in-group
"favoritism – objective rules
applied flexibly, members of the
"out -group" – objective rules
applied by the book

Halo/Horns effect- generalizations from one aspect of a person's performance are carried over to all aspects

Recall Bias- information that conforms to our stereotypes is remembered better

initial positive/negative
judgment and allowing it to
distort later assessments
Focusing on personality
characteristics rather than
underlying performance
issues

to favor information that confirms their beliefs or hypotheses

Judging woman on performance while judging men on potential



What Unconscious Bias Look like Cont.

Central tendency effect-Middle of the scale rating even when performance justifies a higher or lower rating

Stereotyping (Generalizing across groups and ignoring individual differences)

Negative and positive skew (Rating people higher or lower than their actual performance)

Attribution bias (Attributing performance failings to factors not under the person's control)

The "I remember best what happened recently" effect

Contrast/subjectivity effect
(Comparing a person's performance to others rather than to objective standards)



Helpful Hints:

ONE: Learn how your own identities and bias may conflict or be perceived by others.

THREE: Take responsibility for addressing discrimination and biases you encounter.

TWO: Recognize and disrupt microaggressions

What do you know?

Stereotypes

What have you heard?

Microaggressions

Brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, and environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative racial, gender, sexual-orientation, and religious slights and insults to the target person or group" (Sue, 2007).

"Can occur by well intentioned, moral, and decent family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors, students, teachers, clerks, servers, employers, health care professionals, and educators" (Sue, 2010)

Microaggressions





1619-2019 & BEYOND

Outreach, Diverse Programming, Collection Development, & Staffing



Cook & Book Club: Easy Mexican Recipes @ VA

Monday, September 23rd, 7-8:30pm

In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month our Assistant Manager, Cristina Ramirez, will demonstrate how to make some easy Mexican dishes. Her guacamole, tacosand maybe even some enchiladas- will be delicious.



Varina Library
1875 New Market Rd., Henrico VA | (804) 501-1980
henricolibrary.org/varina





Diverse programming from partnerships with local organizations, support from Friends of the Library

Latin Ballet of Virginia

Naturalization Information Session

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will present information for legal permanent residents and interested naturalization applications. Topics covered: naturalization process and test; rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.





U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services





Talking About Race with Children

Workshop for child care providers. Researchers have found that children notice racial differences from a very young age. Being inclusive and celebrating our differences in a bias-free way can be difficult. Cara Jean O'Neal from Henrico County Public School's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Opportunity will share best practices on talking about race with children.

An African Culture Experience

In partnership with The Next Star Arts Program, the Varina Library is hosting a day of African cultural experience. This family event will include a display of African artifacts, a Ghanaian dance instruction, drum circle and a panel discussion on Africans in the diaspora

African Tales with Dylan Pritchett

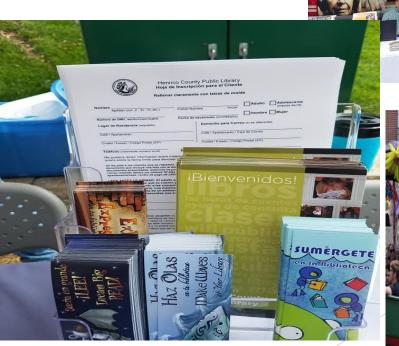


LIBRARIES Exploring Immigrant Experiences

enrico County Public Library (HCPL) won an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for a moderated discussion of the experiences of residents who immigrated to Henrico. The discussion, called "Closing the Distance Between Us," was held in May as part of the 2018 All Henrico Reads event, which featured author Reyna Grande and her immigration memoir "The Distance Between Us." HCPL also won a NACo award for Sensory Storytime, an adaptive program that is designed for children of all abilities, particularly those with autism.

Outreach at Que Pasa Festival and Henrico Parks







Partner with local Spanish-language Latinx radio station to serve as the Henrico County Representative every month to bring library focused programs, activities, and news to the community

"Enfoque a la Comunidad"

Un programa con información local de eventos, servicios, entrevistas y participación en vivo de nuestra audiencia al 804-358-1380. Envía tu evento a 1380@wbtk.com

Todos los lunes a las 11am con repeticiones a las 5pm.

Gracias al patrocinio del Departamento de Manejo de Emergencias de Virginia.









Ideas from other libraries, systems, and LIS research

- *Develop Culturally Integrated Children's Programs
- *Bridge cultures through literature, book clubs, ESL cafes, programs
- *Create the Collections that will serve Immigrant families (diverse languages and characters), make displays
- *Recruit diverse staff to Librarianship and staff positions
- *Reduce barriers to professional development for diverse staff
- *Offer continuing education for staff to better serve Immigrant patrons (language classes, cultural competency)
- *Hire multilingual staff
- *Create strategic partnership opportunities
- *PR plan for community outreach and marketing

What can you do at your Library?

In groups, come up with action items you can implement or suggest in your library to help welcome Immigrant library patrons



Identify organizations, non-profits, government agencies, for-profit businesses, and other organizations that can serve as community partners in better serving the Immigrant Communities in tandem with your library



Ideas & Suggestions for Further Exploration



Thank you!

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