

Cuban, Sondra. *Serving New Immigrant Communities in the Library*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 272p. \$40.00 (ISBN:978-1-59158-297-7)

Sondra Cuban's book, "Serving New Immigrant Communities in the Library" is a thorough discussion and plan for public libraries seeking to provide materials and services for immigrant populations in their communities. The forward of the book is written by Kathleen de la Peña McCook, author of "A Place at the Table." McCook is an impassioned proponent of libraries playing a required role in community politics and process. McCook issues a plea for librarians to take a "humanizing" approach to our services to immigrant populations and understand that education is not just an American institution, but is "a human right." In her introduction, Cuban puts a great deal of responsibility on libraries for the outcome of immigration success, citing that, as communities change, the needs in the areas of literacy, entertainment, education and social aspects change. Technology and workforce qualifications are more reasons for the growing need of immigrant services in public libraries. Cuban goes on to provide information about what new immigrants expect and experience when they first come to America. Cuban provides some impressive demographic and statistical information about the current and changing immigrant population in the United States including a breakdown of immigrant's home countries. She ends the introduction with an interesting and useful historical sketch of library services to immigrants.

The bulk of Cuban's book deals with finding out the needs of immigrant population in the community, communicating and connecting with these groups and accommodating them with library services and meaningful collections. In the first three chapters, Cuban stresses the importance of learning about specific immigrant populations in a given community and identifying the specific needs of that group. Her next sections deal with communicating effectively with these groups in an effort to make connections she finishes her book with a discussion about policy changes, building collections and introducing new programs and services to provide continued library support of new and changing immigrant populations. While the author does not suggest specific services and programs, she provides some core topics with which to design the programs and services around, such as literacy and business and career subjects. In the last chapter of the book, "Final Thoughts" the author reemphasizes that the key to serving immigrant populations is in knowing exactly who these populations are and learning how to effectively assess this specific communities' special needs. In general, any library looking to provide or improve services to their immigrant populations will get a wealth of information from this book and learn the very important initial steps of how to identify the specific population and its specific needs.

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