

MAP

Multicultural Access Project

The Situation

- Public libraries are serving increasingly diverse populations
- Some of the cultures being served place a high value on library services as a part of their lives.
- Libraries need to respond with culturally competent staff and reliable culturally authentic resources.

The MAP is a *centralized* source for easy *access* to multicultural and cultural competency resource, and a place for the library *community* to share experiences and ideas.

The MAP was created to gather multicultural resources for youth librarians in a single, easily accessible hub.

Phase One includes the first version of the MAP website, the first cultural competency tutorial, and a beta version of the searchable database of library resources.

Future phases will include additional tutorials (added monthly), a fully functional resource database, a bibliography database, and a forum for the youth library community to gather, share, and learn.

The MAP offers *standards based* tutorials and self-directed online *learning*.

Education

- Diversity training is not yet part of core curriculum in most information schools
- Librarians in the field may never have had cultural competency training.
- Diversity standards are only beginning to be codified for library organizations

The MAP's resource database and bibliography are screened with *consistent*, transparent standards for *reliability*.

Resources

- Multicultural and cultural competency resources are rapidly becoming available, but they are scattered and varying metadata can make them hard to locate.
- Resources can vary widely in quality, authenticity, and utility.