Univ. of Maryland Librarian Wins Award for Best Article

Sharon K. Epps, Head of Access Services at the University of Maryland Libraries, is the winner of the 2009 Johns Hopkins University Press Award for the best article in the most recent volume of the journal portal: Libraries and the Academy. The Journals Division of the Press and portal’s Editorial Board Awards Committee selected Epps’ article “African American Women Leaders in Academic Research Libraries,” which appeared in Volume 8, Number 3 in July 2008.

“We are pleased to give prominent visibility to an article that addresses major professional concerns of leadership and diversity in higher education,” says portal editor Sarah M. Pritchard, the Charles Deering McCormick University Librarian at Northwestern University.

The article identified the attributes, knowledge and skills that African-American women need to succeed as leaders at Association of Research Libraries (ARL) member institutions. Epps’ research found that African-American women do not need different skill sets than non-minority library directors to be successful, but they may need additional attributes or more of certain attributes to overcome stereotypes and successfully navigate predominantly white academic research library environments.

The winning article is judged on the quality of research methodology, on how well it places library issues in a broader academic or higher education context, whether it makes a significant contribution to the professional literature, its timeliness, and the quality of its writing.

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