

Our Policies

Research

Appointments are encouraged. We are pleased to assist, without charge, researchers who come to the library in person. Due to our limited staff, requests received by mail, electronically and by phone are assessed a nominal fee.

Copying

The following fees apply to items copied in the Plainfield Room:

- Computer print-outs – 25c per page
- Black & White copies – 25c per page
- Color copies 8 ½" x 11" – \$2 per page
- Blueprints – 11" x 17" – \$5 per page

Copyright Information

Reproductions of any materials from our collection are supplied for reference purposes only; some restrictions apply. The Plainfield Public Library is not responsible for the misuse of copyrighted material. Permission to publish photographic material must be applied for in writing. Permission to publish does not constitute a copyright clearance.

Funding

The work of the Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections Department is made possible through the generous funding of the New Jersey Historical Commission, the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, the Plainfield Cultural & Heritage Commission, and the Plainfield Foundation.

You and Local History ...Perfect Together!



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Diversity Studies Collection



*Gathering and
preserving Plainfield's
multicultural resources.*

An Award-Winning Collection

The Library began development of its award-winning Diversity Studies Collection in 2003 to gather and preserve research materials on the minority groups of Plainfield. The collection scope includes published and unpublished resources on the history, culture and literature of African Americans, the Gay and Lesbian community, the Hispanic community and the Caribbean community, local authors, organizations, and portion of the Courier News Photograph Archive. Resources include monographs, periodicals, folios, sheet music, and photographs.

Irving & Clotee Georges Photograph Collection

The images of Irving Georges, an amateur photographer who lived in Plainfield, document the city's African American residents in the late 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. The collection highlights adults and youth engaged in athletics, community events, and everyday activities.

Barbara Polk Riley African-American Book Collection

The roots of this collection stem from Dr. Charles C. Polk, Barbara's father, who began collecting in the 1920s. The collection grew as his children gave him books on African-American subjects, expanding on his initial collection.

Diversity Fine Arts

With the emergence of contemporary award-winning artists in the community, the library has added recent works by African-American and Latino artists to our permanent collection.



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Studies

This collection includes published studies of the LGBT community in New Jersey and classics of gay/lesbian literature that need to be available after they have gone out of print. In addition, the Library now offers access to LGBT titles in *Great Events from History*, which provides award-winning articles regarding LGBT events.

In October 2009, the Plainfield Public Library received the **Community Change Award** from the *New Jersey Black Issues Convention for the development of our Diversity Studies Collection.*

Multicultural Oral History Collection

The collection also includes several oral history interview initiatives. These projects ensure that the voices, experiences, and life stories of Plainfield's diverse cultures will be preserved and presented with dignity for many future generations.

Griot Initiative, 2007

As part of StoryCorps' *Griot* project, a Plainfield historian arranged to capture the stories of African-Americans in Union County. Our library received copies of the seventeen Plainfield interviews. *The Griot Initiative* is inspired by the role of the griot in West African tradition. It is a role of honor, designating someone who maintains community tradition and memory through storytelling, music, and dance.

Latinos in Conversation, 2007

Working with StoryCorps, we conducted thirteen interviews representing eight countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, and Puerto Rico

Historias, 2009-2010

Working with the StoryCorps and the Plainfield Hispanic community, the library conducted eight interviews representing five additional countries: Cuba, Ecuador, Argentina, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua.