

I am attracted to a professional position in an ARL library because I find the very idea of Research Libraries inspiring; they remind one that scrutiny, review, and dialogue are the benchmarks of successful universities; more importantly, universities and institutes hold the key to improving society by ensuring our democratic ideals, cultural capital, and technology are transmitted to future generations.

Furthermore, as a student of color and 2007-2008 ALA Spectrum Scholar, I am committed to ensuring that scholars of all creeds and colors feel at home when they enter a library. The easiest way to do this is to recruit intelligent, articulate students of color to teach, conduct research, and create programming that emphasizes the concerns of minority students. I firmly believe that if students of color at research libraries see faces that are similar to their faces, then those students will feel more comfortable in that particular library.

I am an avid patron of The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a research branch of the New York Public Library. I have benefited firsthand from the trove of resources available at this public research library. And even though the Schomburg is not affiliated with a college or university, it is more than a valuable Harlem landmark and operational research library; it is a testament to the vitality of Black History in New York City. Because Arutro Schomburg was an Afro-Puerto Rican, the library also prompts Blacks and Latinos to question the parameters of their beliefs concerning perceived differences in ethnicity. Furthermore, as a thriving cultural institute, it provides crucial educational and social programming for the community at large.

Last, it is equally attractive for me to help place materials into the hands of students, researchers, and faculty members that will supplement their knowledge. Obtaining a position at an ARL library would allow me to enrich the lives of scholars, while greatly supplementing my knowledge base and professional demeanor. Research libraries provide an invaluable source to researchers; they remind us that there are still places where learning is shared, where one can amass information and arrive at their own conclusions.