

From "We Shall Remain" to "Operation Teen Book Drop": New National Indigenous Library Services Initiatives

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Two recent or ongoing national library events in the United States are focused on library services with indigenous populations.

In April 2009, "We Shall Remain," aired nationally on the U.S. Public Broadcasting Service. We Shall Remain, produced by WGBH-Boston, consisted of five ninety minute episodes. Episodes featured key events in American Indian history including the Mashantucket-Pequot War; Tecumseh and the Shawnee Prophet; Cherokee removal; Geronimo, boarding schools and the Indian Wars; and Wounded Knee II. A National Library Initiative provided public libraries with event kits to develop public programming around the television series. . A .pdf version of the kit is available at <http://www.pbs.org/weshallremain/libraries>. The twenty-six page event kit identifies partners in developing programs, including local public television and radio stations, Native communities and organizations, museums and historical societies, and educational institutions. The cover art features a photograph of a teepee with an American flag waving from a lodge pole, an image that provokes discussion about cultural adaptation, resistance, survival, and sovereignty.

The kit describes how to organize culturally responsive programs such as open-mic events featuring family stories, local oral history initiatives, book discussions, film festivals, speaker's series, book displays, and art contests. It features a discussion guide for Louise Erdrich's *The Plague of Doves*. Suggestions are given on hosting a public film festival. Additional content gives guidelines on evaluating media about Native peoples. The kit concludes with bibliographies of books, films, and websites coded by reading level.

Over 120 libraries in the United States hosted public programs during the airing of *We Shall Remain*. This portion of the presentation will present information on these programs and their use of the library event kit.

The second portion of the presentation will present plans for Operation Teen Book Drop (TBD) 2010. The fourth Support Teen Literature Day will be celebrated on April 15, 2010, during National Library Week 2010. Operation TBD" 2010 will involve delivering a free book to teens attending tribal or Native schools across the United States. In past years, 8,000 young adult novels, audiobooks, and graphic novels donated by 18 publishers were collected and distributed by Readergirlz, Guys Lit Wire, and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). For 2010, we will join efforts and drop 10,000 new young adult books, donated by publishers, into the hands of teens attending 30 tribal or Native schools.