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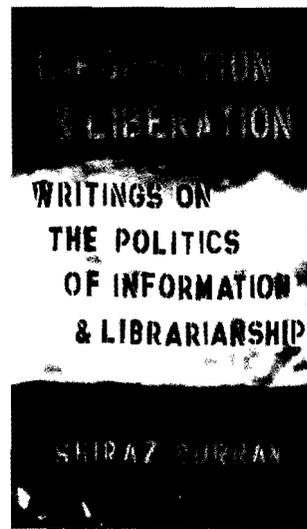
reviews

Taking a political stand in the profession

THIS IMPORTANT COLLECTION spans nearly 30 years of professional achievement in Kenya and the UK. One of the author's mantras is that we should 'put ideas into action' and this book is a testament to the many original and radical ideas which he has shaped and put into practice. Nelson Mandela said that 'the struggle is my life' and a similar theme runs through this book, whether it is the fight against political corruption in Africa, or the need to combat exclusion and racism in UK libraries.

Shiraz was a member of the research team that produced the seminal report *Open to All? Public Libraries and Social Exclusion* which spawned two important legacy organisations: the Network, managed by John Vincent; and the Quality Leaders Programme, led by Shiraz. The latter was a positive action project for Black library workers, which was succeeded by a QLP (Youth) Project. Shiraz was active in the Diversity Council which later became the CILIP Diversity Group and he was a founder member of Progressive Librarianship in Africa and Information for Social Change.

The book is divided into five sections: 'Society and information', which gives a 'South perspective' on library work; 'The battle continues in a colder climate', which documents Shiraz's pioneering



Durrani, S. *Information & Liberation: writings on the politics of information & librarianship*. Library Juices Press, 2008. 384 pp. ISBN 978 0 9802004 0 9. £22

work in Hackney and Merton; 'Taking a stand', which covers his challenging contributions to national debates and initiatives; 'Book reviews'; and 'Organise do not agonise', which sums up his approach to libraries and life:

'...social revolutions start with small sparks. But these sparks do not come from the sky. They are created by the spread of alternative ideas, vision and experiences that can ignite the imagination of people who move forward to force change in societies... And relevant information can be the spark that leads to real liberation.'

John Pateman
Head of Libraries,
Learning & Inclusion
Lincolnshire County Council