

The Rubenstein Library's Commitment to Anti-Racism

Black Lives Matter at Duke University. Reaffirming that anti-racism is a proactive process and requires the commitment of resources and regular renewal, we will:

- Prioritize identifying, documenting, and sharing the history and contributions of Black people--including Duke students, faculty, and staff. This work includes surfacing stories we have previously overlooked in our collections.
- Seek opportunities to create relationships with the Durham community, acknowledging that Duke and Durham share a complex and intertwined history. We will listen to, collaborate with, and support the communities and organizations engaged in preserving, researching, and highlighting Black history in Durham.
- Empower Black and other students of color to work with archival and rare materials in ways that fulfill their intellectual, creative, personal, and career interests and goals and create opportunities for them to explore pursuing a career in archives and libraries. Recognizing the disproportionate whiteness of the library profession, we feel an obligation to partner with others to contribute to the support and retention of BIPOC library staff.

The staff of the RL recognizes that our institution has a long history of reinforcing white supremacy and of dismissing the contributions and experiences of Black people. We acknowledge that Black communities have been an essential part of Duke's story. The actions outlined above will diversify collections, staff, and activities in the RL so that we might better serve the Duke community, participate in the Durham community, and contribute to a more just world.