

For further research

Interested in Black Britain and children's literature? Here are some resources to help you learn more about this fascinating history!

Archival collections

Seven Stories holds a wide variety of author, illustrator, publisher, and critic's archives, some highlights of which you can see in the exhibition. If you are interested in doing research on children's literature and Black Britain, why not examine the catalogue or contact the archivist to find out more about Seven Stories' holdings. These include:

- Authors' and Illustrators' collections, including John Agard, David Axtell, Valerie Bloom, Grace Hallworth, Errol Lloyd, Grace Nichols, Ifeoma Onyefulu and Ken Wilson-Max.
- Publishers' and editors' papers, including Aidan Chambers and Leila Berg, who made an effort to publish Black authors and illustrators in the 1970s; and information and artifacts about community publishers such as Centerprise in Hackney and Islington Community Press.
- The writings of critics and scholars commenting on Black British children's literature. You can find a wide range of material, particularly from the 1970s onwards, from people such as Robert Leeson, Beverley Naidoo, Dorothy Kuya, and Rosemary Stones.

Newcastle University's Special Collections, held in the Philip Robinson Library, contains useful information for people working on representation of Black people in historic British children's literature, and in Black British literature for adults. The Brian Alderson collection contains an extensive collection of children's literature from the 17th century onwards, including representations of Black people. The Anne Walmsley collection contains the history of the Caribbean Artists Movement, of which author Andrew Salkey and publisher John La Rose were a part.

The George Padmore Institute contains the archives of New Beacon books, founded by publisher John La Rose; the **London Metropolitan Archives** holds the papers of Black British publishers Jessica and Eric Huntley who founded Bogle

L'Ouverture books; and the **Black Cultural Archives** includes material related to the publishing efforts of Len Garrison, founder of the African Caribbean Educational Resource project, and Ansel Wong, who published young people's writing through his Ahfiwe School. **Reading University's Archive of British Printing and Publishing** contains material related to several British children's publishers.

Critical Scholarship

Below is a list of critical resources that will help you get started in your research about children's literature and Black Britain. The exhibition was underpinned by this research, particularly that of Newcastle University Professor Karen Sands-O'Connor. Some of her work is listed below, along with her suggestions for scholars looking to research in this area.

Books by Karen Sands-O'Connor:

Soon Come Home to This Island: West Indians in British Children's Literature. Routledge, 2008.

Children's Publishing and Black Britain, 1965-2015. Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

British Activist Authors Addressing Children of Colour. Bloomsbury, 2022.

Diversity and Inclusion in Young Adult Publishing, 1960-1980. Cambridge Elements, 2022.

Books on Black British history and publishing:

Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain by Peter Fryer was first published by Pluto Press in 1984 and has been in print ever since (a new version was published in 2018). David Olusoga's *Black and British* first appeared in 2016 as a history for adults, and two children's editions have since been published.

Anne Walmsley's *The Caribbean Artists Movement 1966-1972* (New Beacon Books 1992) chronicles some of the earliest efforts of the Windrush Generation to create, publish, and market Black British literature, and Margaret Andrews' *Doing Nothing is Not an Option: The Radical Lives of Eric and Jessica Huntley* (Krik Krak 2014) considers the Huntley's independent Black British press, Bogle L'Ouverture.

Other useful resources:

Darren Chetty and Karen Sands-O'Connor write a regular column entitled 'Beyond the Secret Garden' for the online journal, *Books for Keeps*, about diversity in children's books. You can access these columns here: [Search Results for "beyond the secret garden" – Books For Keeps](#).

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) produces *Reflecting Realities*, an annual report authored by Farrah Serroukh about the books published each year that include representation of racially-minoritized groups. You can find the reports here: [Research | Centre for Literacy in Primary Education \(clpe.org.uk\)](#).

Melanie Ramdarshan Bold has produced reports for BookTrust on representation of authors of colour in the children's book industry. These *BookTrust Represents* reports can be found on their website: [Research into representation of people of colour among children's book authors and illustrators | BookTrust](#)