About the Authors

Valeda Dent is currently Dean and Chief Operating Officer for the Long Island University Libraries in New York. She previously served as Associate University Librarian for Research and Instructional Services at Rutgers University, and as Project Director for the eLib/JISC MALIBU digital library project in London, United Kingdom. She holds an M.S.W. and M.I.L.S. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from the Palmer School at Long Island University. Her research interests include information literacy, rural libraries in Africa and related literacy and reading habits, and ethnographic approaches to understanding the user experience. She has published two books, *Keeping the User in Mind: Instructional Design and the Modern Library* (2009) and *Qualitative Research and the Modern Library* (2011). She is the author of numerous articles, and has been published in journals such as *Library Hi Tech, New Library World, Libri,* and *Oral Traditions.* Valeda’s longitudinal research on rural village libraries in Uganda and elsewhere in Africa has spanned more than eight years. Valeda and her husband, Dr. Geoff Goodman, have been selected as Fulbright Scholars for 2014 and will spend almost a year in Uganda continuing their study of the rural village library. In her spare time, Valeda enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter, Carlyn.

Geoff Goodman is Associate Professor of Psychology at Long Island University. He is also a licensed clinical and school psychologist with 21 years of experience treating children and adolescents as well as adults. He is certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) and is certified as both an adult and a child and adolescent psychoanalyst and Fellow of the International Psychoanalytical Association (FIPA). Dr. Goodman received a Bachelor of Science degree from MIT in 1983, a Master of Arts degree in Developmental Psychology from Columbia University in 1986, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Clinical Psychology from Northwestern University in 1991. Dr. Goodman is the author of many articles on the development of psychopathology in high-risk infants, children, and adults. He has published five books: *The Internal World and Attachment* (The Analytic Press, 2002), *Transforming the Internal World and Attachment* (Vols. 1 and 2, Jason Aronson, 2010), *Therapeutic Attachment Relationships* (Jason Aronson, 2010), and *Daddy’s Secret Cedar Chest* (Tate Publishing, 2013). In 2013, Dr. Goodman was awarded the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship by the US Department of State, which he and wife, Valeda Dent, will use to continue their literacy acquisition research on rural Ugandan preschool children and their caregivers and teach at Uganda Martyrs University.

Michael Kevane is Associate Professor in the Economics Department at Santa Clara University. Recent research focuses on the importance of libraries in promoting reading and the impacts on societies of a reading public, with articles published in academic journals such as *Libri, World Libraries,* and *Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France.* He is the author of *Women and Development in Africa: How Gender Works*
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(Lynne Rienner, 2004). He has also published research articles on the performance of agrarian institutions and markets in Africa in journals such as *World Development, Review of Development Economics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, and Africa*. He is co-editor of a book, *Kordofan Invaded: Peripheral Incorporation and Social Transformation in Islamic Africa* (Brill, 1998). He is past President of the Sudan Studies Association, and co-director of Friends of African Village Libraries (www.favl.org), a non-profit he co-founded in 2001 that has established numerous village libraries in rural Africa.

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Kate Parry is a professor in the Department of English at Hunter College of the City University of New York, where she teaches the history of the English language and other courses in linguistics. She spends at least three months a year in Uganda, promoting community libraries and carrying out research on the development of literacy practices. She is a co-founder and director of the Kitengesa Community Library, Chairperson of the Uganda Community Libraries Association, and Executive Director for East Africa of Friends of African Village Libraries in the United States. Professor Parry has edited three collections of papers on literacy in Africa, one on literacy and language learning in China, and one on testing reading internationally. She has written many articles on the role of community libraries in promoting literacy and development, several of which focus on the practical work that she has been doing at Kitengesa.