

# Remembering our Ex Libris Colleagues

This section of our website provides a place for sharing the memories, life stories, and milestones that celebrate the lives of those who worked in libraries and information settings.

Each issue of our newsletter, *ELAN*, has a space for obituaries that provides brief information on many more of our former colleagues. The following tributes are now available by using the alphabetical index and toggling the names to view more information.

## **Anderson, Beryl Lapham, April 15, 1925-May 6, 2020**

— Published in the Ottawa Citizen, May 9, 2020

Dr. Beryl Anderson was the daughter of G.H. Percy Anderson of Northport, N.S. and Hazel Annie (Fader) Anderson of St. Margarets Bay, N.S. Beryl was a graduate of classics at Dalhousie University (B.A. 1946 and M.A. 1949), library science at McGill University (B.L.S. 1956), and Walden University (Ph.D., 1980, "A Correlational Analysis of the Reference Transaction Records of a Canadian Bank Library"). She began her teaching career in schools in Quebec and Nova Scotia between 1946 and 1949. From 1950 to 1955, she was a lecturer in Classics at Dalhousie University before becoming Associate Professor, McGill Graduate Library School 1956 to 1971. After completing her doctorate, Dr. Anderson was Chief of the Library Documentation Centre, National Library of Canada until her retirement in 1987. Her primary research focus was in the field of special libraries: she authored the directory, *Special Libraries and Information Centres in Canada* in 1970. She also compiled various reports on special library work in the 1970s and 1980s and authored a synoptic chapter on Canadian libraries from 1970-79 in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* in 1983. Dr. Anderson was a long-time member of the Canadian Library Association, the Archaeological Institute of America, the Canadian Institute in Greece and Friends of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, where she volunteered for many years. She enjoyed several trips to excavation sites in Greece and Turkey with the Archaeological Institute.

— Comments by Maria Calderisi

I first met Beryl Anderson in 1972 as I was nearing the end of my music studies at McGill and wondering what to do next. My favourite professor had noticed that I spent a lot of time in the library and wondered if I had thought about librarianship. The idea was attractive to me and I went to see Beryl who was a professor at the Library School. She was a most straightforward and honest person, encouraging but cautious, especially since she knew, regretfully, that a BMus was not an acceptable prerequisite for the programme at McGill. She thought, though, that subject specialization was on the rise in the profession and was pleased to tell me that the National Library had just recently engaged such specialists as Irene Aubrey for Children's Literature and Liana Van der Bellen for Rare Books, and of course that Dr. Helmut Kallmann had been named Chief of the newly-formed Music Division. After visiting him in Ottawa to quiz him about the future of music librarianship in Canada, I then found the ideal MLS programme at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, a combination of librarianship and musicology, and was hired by the National Library in the summer of 1973.

I had kept in touch with Beryl during this time and she herself joined the Library to create the Library Documentation Centre that same year, if I'm not mistaken. So we became colleagues, although at quite different administrative levels, and eventually we became friends. I admired her dedication and tenacity in her work, and was fascinated by her researches in Greek history and archeology, but it

was our shared love of music and her continuing interest and encouragement that drew us closer. I am so grateful to have known Beryl and shall remember her always.

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## **Beacock, Ernest Stanley Jan. 21, 1921 - March 2, 2004**

— taken from “Libraries Named after Librarians,” by Suzette Giles *ELAN*, Spring 2019.

Stanley Beacock will be a familiar name to some members of the Ex Libris Association because Beacock founded the association, served as the first president, and edited the newsletter for eight years. However members may not be aware that he worked at the London Public Library and Art Museum (LPL&AM) until 1980, on three different occasions.

Ernest Stanley Beacock was born on January 21, 1921, to Lambert and Eva Beacock, in Flos Township, Simcoe County, Ont. Mainly educated locally, he continued to Queen’s University in Kingston, Ont., obtaining a degree in 1942. After serving in Italy during World War II, Beacock became a clerk in the circulation department of LPL&AM in 1946. In 1947, after attending the University of Toronto Library School, Beacock became Chief Librarian of the Lambton County Library, setting up a county hub in Wyoming, Ont., and organizing services throughout the area. Impressed with the community support for libraries in Ohio, in 1949 he became Chief Librarian of the Kenton Public Library in Kenton, Ohio. He remained in Ohio for 12 years, moving to the larger Troy Public Library in 1953.

In 1961 Beacock was invited to return to LPL&AM as Assistant Director. Municipal boundaries had recently changed and suburban areas were now under the auspices of LPL&AM. Beacock was known for his willingness to meet and listen to staff, and he personally met with each new staff member. While a new branch was opened in 1963, there were frustrations around funding and responsibilities. An opportunity for a change occurred in 1966, and Beacock became Director of the newly instituted Midwestern Regional Library Co-operative. The creation of a central processing centre was a priority.

In 1974, however, the Director of LPL&AM resigned and Beacock was selected to replace him. In Beacock’s absence, the population of London had increased; there were 10 branches and an expanded central library. A strike by the professional public librarians — the first such occurrence in Canada — and high staff turnover indicated a workplace with considerable challenges. In a controversial move, the position of Assistant Director was replaced by Manager, Personnel Services, and a non-librarian, with experience in the business sphere, was hired. Stanley was the Director and Secretary-Treasurer of London Public Libraries from 1974–84 and Adjunct Professor of Library Science at U.W.O. until 1991.

Beacock was a strong supporter of staff development as throughout his career he had continued his own studies including a part-time Master of Library Science at the University of Toronto, completed in 1969. When a report was required to justify a new branch library, rather than hire an outside consultant, Beacock seconded the head of the London Urban Resource Centre. The resulting report was well received, with the city council providing funding to rebuild the W. O. Carson Branch (see “Libraries Named After Librarians” by Suzette Giles in *ELAN* No. 63/Spring 2018, on page 11) in 1977. Funding restraints led to the opening of two more branches in school portables. In 1980 the art gallery moved to a new location, allowing for a renovation of the central library, and the Northland Branch was rebuilt in 1982. With increasing operational costs, automation had to be considered. In 1979 the library purchased a Geac 8000 system for circulation and, after a pilot project, there was an extension to all branches, a first for Canadian public libraries.

Beacock retired in 1984. At the reception he was presented with several volumes of articles, photographs, and letters of appreciation that celebrated his career at LPL&AM. In 1985 the Northland branch was renamed in his honour. Beacock died in London on March 2, 2004. Together with his wife, he left a lasting legacy in the form of bursaries for S.L.I.S. students.

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## **Bewley, Lois M., April 3, 1926- Aug. 28, 2023**

— Vancouver Sun, September 9, 2023

Lois M. Bewley (née Crook) died August 28, 2023 age of 97, at the Royal Ascot Care Centre in Vancouver, BC. Born in 1926 in Regina, Sask., she was predeceased by her six siblings and by many colleagues and cherished friends, in particular the late Sylvia Crooks and Alice Bacon. Lois was a graduate of UBC with post-graduate degrees in Library Science from U of Toronto ('49) and U of Illinois ('66). She taught at the U of California, Berkeley, and was instrumental in the establishment of a public library system and of a state-wide program of continuing professional education. In 1969 she joined the library faculty at UBC, which became her academic home for the rest of her career.

Lois was passionate about teaching and a strong advocate of free public library service in Canada and the legislation to make it possible. Over the years, she was engaged as a consultant regarding library development and legislation in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Nova Scotia.

Lois was nationally recognized for her defense of intellectual freedom. At an AGM of the BC Library Association (BCLA) in the late 80s, she announced the formation of the Intellectual Freedom, Education and Defense Fund to fight against literary repression. In 2007, the BCLA renamed the Fund in her honour in recognition of her extensive career and her influence in promoting intellectual freedom in libraries in BC and throughout Canada.

Lois was very active in her professional associations—as President of the BCLA and Canadian Library Association (CLA) and as a member and Chair of many Canadian and American library and library educators committees. She chaired the Vancouver Public Library Foundation and wrote extensively on library legislation, as well as writing or giving articles, speeches, and interviews on intellectual freedom, censorship, and the freedom to read. She was a member of Ex Libris Association. Lois was recognized with her profession's highest awards -by the BCLA with the Helen Gordon Stewart Award for "Outstanding Achievement", by the Canadian Library Association for "Outstanding Service to Librarianship," and by the Canadian Public Library Association for "Outstanding Public Library Service." UBC has a graduate student scholarship named for Lois in honour of her teaching and devotion to public service. One of her most treasured awards was from her students, the "Just Desserts" award (UBC Library Students' Association).

Lois is remembered by friends and family for her feistiness, her engaging and sometimes outrageous sense of humour, her legendary love of books and reading, and her never-failing curiosity about life. She travelled widely, loved music (opera in particular), and was very active - as a golfer, fisherperson (dry-fly and salt-chuck), sailor, curler, lawn bowler, and walker.

More information about Lois Bewley can be found at the [University of British Columbia Library Archives](#) (PDF download).

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## **Black, John Buchanan, 5 Aug. 1940-13 Sept. 2025**

— published in *Gueph Today*, November 8, 2025

John was born 5 August 1940 in Guelph, Ontario. His education began in a one room schoolhouse in Moffat Ontario; he went on to achieve a BA in Journalism and an MA in International Relations from the University of Western Ontario and a PhD in International Relations from the London (UK) School of Economics. He was well known for his work as Professor and founding member of the Political Science Department and as Chief Librarian at the University of Guelph. His technological innovations included a pioneering CD-ROM library catalogue and an early computer conferencing capability (CoSy). He was the first Canadian appointed Chair of the Association of Research Libraries for 1994-95 and President of the Ontario Library Association in 1996-97. Also, John was named Honorary Chief Librarian of the Beijing Agricultural Library. Later, he became Director of Information Systems at the International Red Cross in Geneva. John and his wife, Elizabeth, eventually settled in St. Andrews, Scotland, where he continued to share his skills as a volunteer with the Rotary Club and with the local Preservation Trust.

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## **Blostein, Fay, 1927-Jan. 24, 2022**

— From the *Globe and Mail*, Feb. 5, 2022

After a long illness, Fay passed away peacefully on January 24, 2022 in her ninety-fifth year. Beloved daughter of the late Anna and Hayim Blostein, one of a long line of teachers. Dear sister of Harriet Law and David Blostein, and sister-in-law of Kerry Dean and the late Charles Law. Devoted aunt of Jules (Wendy), Howard (Henny), Sarah and Michael-David, and great-aunt to Matthew, Leah and Simone. The Blostein children grew up largely in Transcona, Manitoba, where Fay as the eldest sibling used a door in the family home as a blackboard to teach her younger siblings to read, and subjected her younger sister to endless games of Let's Play Library, while she herself read and read. The stage for her future life was set. After graduating from the University of Manitoba, Fay completed the short course at normal school and accepted her first position as a high-school teacher in Bowsman, Manitoba. By now she had reached her maximum height of four feet, eleven and a half inches but the way she cowed the six-foot boys in her classes led her first school principal to dub her "Little Napoleon." At first in Manitoba, then in Ontario, Fay taught literature and other subjects, acted in and directed several plays and at some point became a librarian - not the cliché guard-dog but a teacher-librarian. She became a specialist in the then-underappreciated genre of young adult fiction, writing three books on the subject, and maintained that she never met a kid she couldn't turn on to reading. Later, as a professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Education, she taught her imaginative ideas on school librarianship to future teachers.

It is impossible to describe adequately the effect of Fay's colourful personality on the literally thousands of students, teachers, librarians and theatre people she taught, directed or worked with over her lifetime. Many have said she was the role model that inspired their own teaching and directing careers. In recognition of her lifetime achievement, in 1989 the Ontario Library Association bestowed on her the Distinguished Service Award, its highest honour. In early retirement, Fay's life was a feast of travel and antiquing, concerts, films (including the annual TIFF festival) and Blue Jays games, where she revelled in the hot dogs and ice cream as much as in the game itself. But she also spent many hours visiting and advocating for her widowed mother. Fay never married or had children of her own, but she doted on her nephews and niece, encouraging them in all of their activities, indulging them extravagantly at every turn, delighting them with her irreverent sense of humour and

earning their gratitude with her fierce loyalty.

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## **Bowron, Albert Wilson, Oct. 13, 1919-Jan. 27, 2018**

— Toronto Globe and Mail, February 1, 2018

Albert Bowron of Toronto passed away early morning on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at the age of 98. He was fortunate to spend his last days well cared for by the staffs of Belmont House and Grace Hospital, and closely attended by his family and friends. Predeceased by his brother, Balfour (Agnes); and his later-life companion, Dorothy; he is survived by his brother, John (Barbara); ex-wives, Margaret Cunningham and Beate Bowron (Gary); children, Julian Bowron (Marie) and Alexandra Bowron (Friedi); granddaughters, Ella Casanova-Bowron and Flurina Casaulta (Damian); and great-grandson, Juri Marco. Born in 1919 in Hamilton, Ontario, Al was deeply affected by the death of his beloved mother when he was 12. He attended Hillfield School, worked for his father's companies, then entered University of Toronto, where his studies were interrupted by service as a draftsman with the RCAF and surveyor on the Alaska Highway. U of T is where Al met his first wife, Margaret, and many of the close friends he would know for the rest of his life. Graduating with a BA, Library Science in 1949, his early career took him from Vancouver to London, England and Southwestern Ontario. Al and Margaret travelled extensively, drove a classic MG in road rallies, and developed a progressive social circle, which included eccentric locals and European emigres. Julian was born in 1958 and the family moved to Toronto in 1960. Following a stint at the Toronto Public Library, in 1964 Al was appointed Chief Librarian in Scarborough where he oversaw significant expansion including the construction of the Cedarbrae branch (Irving Grossman, architect). Al 'imported' librarians from all over the world to the SPL and met his second wife, Beate, there in 1967. After marrying, they travelled widely, including a '76 - '77 trip around the world. In 1969, Al began a successful second career as Canada's first full-time library consultant. From '69 to '92 he produced dozens of reports on libraries, large and small, in every part of Canada, as well as regular articles for Quill and Quire. Al and Beate's daughter, Alexandra, was born in 1979. They purchased 'Toro Villa' in 1981, near Creemore, Ontario where many pleasant weekends were shared among the abandoned orchards.

Never a fusty librarian, Al championed innovations inspired by his extensive tours of European libraries (courtesy of the Canada Council), including radio broadcasts, bookmobiles, community event spaces, movie and record lending. A passionate defender of free speech and President of the OLA ('66-'67) and Ex-Libris ('93, '94), he organized the Banned Books display for the CLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee ('60), spoke and lectured extensively and served on many boards and committees such as the Writers Development Trust, the Stephen Leacock Awards and OECA. In 1980, he was awarded the U of T's 60th Anniversary Award for Outstanding Contribution to Library and Information Science, and in 1986, the Alumni Jubilee award. Quick with a joke or wry comment, Al was the life of the party. In his later years, he enjoyed many an adventure with Elderhostel Ontario, trips to the Stratford Festival, stays in Ontario's B & Bs, volunteering at the Vic Book Sale, and sketching old barns in the countryside. At the age of 80 he rode his bicycle around Lake Ontario on the Waterfront Trail. Al was a talented amateur painter, who experimented with a wide range of styles from abstract expressionism to watercolour landscapes. He introduced his children to art, the joys of books, Ontario's fall fairs, The Bruce Trail, cross-country skiing, and travel. Up until December 2017, Al would still take the bus, or accept a ride from his generous brother, John, for 'coffee and a sticky bun' at his local coffee shop. His drive for new experiences and overall lust for life will live on in all who have known him. Cremation has taken place, internment alongside his parents in Hamilton to take place in a private ceremony. In accordance with his (well-organized) final wishes, we will 'Have a party...at an appropriate location...at which jazz...will be the background to... Canadian wines for

friends and relatives.'

— Comment by Lorne Bruce

"Al" (as he was known in a shorthand kind of way) came to meet me one afternoon in 1978. We talked for about an hour, and he covered many things that he thought a young administrator should be on the lookout for. Of course, he made a pitch for doing a library survey for our board!! But that was his secondary concern. He was really more interested to pass on his experience and knowledge of the library world and to make a new friend.

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## **Campbell, Henry Cummings, April 22, 1919-July 31, 2009**

— Contributed by Norman Horrocks, September 2009

Henry Cummings (Harry) Campbell was born in Vancouver, BC on 22 April, 1919. Around 1903, Harry's father, Henry Campbell, had moved from Scotland to Toronto where he worked as a butcher. On a return trip to Scotland about 1910, he met Margaret Kennedy Cummings, a nurse in Edinburgh. Henry returned to Vancouver in 1911 and corresponded with Margaret. Shortly before the outbreak of World War I, Margaret left Scotland to join Henry and they were married on her arrival in Vancouver in July 1914.

Harry entered King George High School, Burrard Street, Vancouver in September 1933 where his interest in journalism started. He was the editor and publisher of the "King George Times" produced on a Gestetner machine. After graduating from High School, Harry took his BA at the University of British Columbia in 1940 with political science and history as majors. He followed this by taking his BLS at the University of Toronto. During his time at the Toronto Library School, he attended a Halloween party at the School of Social Work where he met Sylvia Woodsworth whom he married in 1943; Sylvia Woodsworth Campbell pre-deceased him in October 1988. They had three children - Sheila MacRae and Bonnie Campbell who survive him, and a son, Robin, who died in July 2002.

After graduating with his BLS in 1941, Harry took a position with the National Film Board working in Ottawa at their studios in John and Sussex Streets. By 1946, he decided that he didn't want to be a film maker any longer and he enrolled in a master's program at Columbia Teachers' College in New York City. (See Harry Campbell "Why I Chose Libraries" Brampton, ON, 2005. Unpublished. 66 pages, 2005, on which this early history is based) The Columbia scholarship was not enough to maintain his family, so Harry obtained a position as film and sound archivist at the United Nations Secretariat at Lake Success, Long Island, NY. After completing his Columbia MA in Adult Education Harry, Sylvia and their two daughters moved to Paris when the UN General Assembly met there, and sound recordings had to be made of its proceedings. Before returning to New York Harry visited the Libraries Division of UNESCO. This led to his being offered a position there. Harry and his family left New York again for France where son Robin was born in July 1949.

From 1949 to 1956, Harry was Head of the UNESCO Clearing House for Libraries undertaking a number of bibliographical assignments and visiting over twenty countries. In the summer of 1956, he attended the CLA Conference in Niagara Falls while on a home visit to Canada. Here, he applied for the position of Assistant Chief Librarian at the Toronto Public Library and talked with Chief Librarian Dr Charles Sanderson and several members of the Library Board. After he returned to Paris, he received a telegram from the Toronto Library Board offering him the position of Chief Librarian after Dr Sanderson's sudden death. Harry served as Chief Librarian from 1956 to 1978. It was a position which

changed dramatically after the establishment of the Metropolitan Toronto Library Board which came into being on January 1, 1967. After taking a leave of absence in 1978, Harry remained on the staff of the Library until September 1981 working on the history of the library for the centennial volume in 1983. (See Margaret Penman "A Century of Service: The Toronto Public Library 1883-1983" Toronto: Toronto Public Library, 1983.)

During his years as Chief Librarian, Harry had continued to be active in the international arena, working on assignments for the Canadian government and by publishing in both books and journals. He was elected to a three-year term as President of the International Association of Metropolitan Public Libraries in 1971. He taught a course on Metropolitan Public Libraries at the Dalhousie Library School in 1972. After his retirement from the Toronto Public Library, Harry was very active in developing links with libraries in China and in the Pacific region. He and his wife made many trips to revisit countries to which they had travelled earlier in their lives. Harry offered grants to Chinese librarians to attend IFLA meetings. Later he offered grants to countries which had been unable to send their librarians to attend IFLA for a number of years.

In 1992 Harry became the General Manager of CinfoLink Services, which produced guides to internet sources in China. He was President of the Toronto-based Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations 1985-88. Earlier, he had been President of the Canadian Library Association, 1974-1975. One of the founders of the Ex Libris Association, he served as its President in 2002 (See "Harry Campbell's Association with IFLA" an interview with Mary Williamson in ELAN, #42, Fall 2007, pp. 10-12). Harry was recognized internationally. After serving as 1st Vice-President of IFLA, 1974-1978, he was appointed an Honorary Fellow of IFLA in 1979. In 1984, he was honoured from India by being the first Canadian to be awarded the Kaula Gold Medal for "meritorious service for the cause of library and information science." His acceptance speech "Librarianship for Enduring Peace and Social Progress" was published by the Ontario Library Association in 1988 and also appeared in "Herald of Library Science" vol. 28, pp. 79-86, April 1989. Harry remained active to the end of his life — he attended the 2008 IFLA Conference in Quebec City and the 2009 CLA Conference in Montreal. We are glad that he chose libraries.

## **Coburn, Morton, Dec. 28, 1921-July 19, 2022**

Morton Coburn died at the age of 100 years in Chicago, Illinois. He was born on December 28, 1921, in Chicago. After serving in the U.S. army during WWII, he attended, on the GI Bill, the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana where he earned a degree in education and a master's degree in librarianship. He worked in university libraries in Kansas and Ohio before finding a job in Alabama in a military library. In 1956 he became the third director of the Edmonton Public Library, a position he held until 1972. During this period, he oversaw the unprecedented expansion of the EPL system, including the construction of seven branch libraries and a new downtown library, the City of Edmonton's centennial project, which opened in 1967 and is now called the Stanley A. Milner Library. It replaced an older Carnegie Library, which was torn down by the City. Recognizing a dire need for locally-trained professional librarians, Morton collaborated with Bruce Peel, who had been appointed chief librarian at the University of Alberta in 1955, to create a school of library science at the University of Alberta, which began offering a bachelor's degree in library science in 1968. After he left EPL, he served for over thirty-eight years as director of library building programs with Chicago Public Library, working on the new main library and over eighty branches until he retired at the age of 91. He held professional memberships in the Canadian Library Association, the Alberta Library Association, and the American Library Association. He was president of the Library Association of Alberta 1958-1959.

Morton Coburn was a member of the Ex Libris Association for many years. [A short YouTube video records the legacy of his years at Edmonton Public Library.](#)

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## Cockshutt, Margaret Evelyn, Feb. 27, 1927 - July 9, 2023

— Contributed by Lynne Howarth

Margaret Cockshutt passed away peacefully, on July 9, 2023, at Hazelton Place, Toronto, in her 97th year. As the obituary published in the *Globe & Mail* further notes, “she studied at St. Hilda's College at the University of Toronto, and went on to pursue a Master's Degree in Library Science with a specialty in Classification Theory. She devoted her entire teaching career to the Faculty of Library and Information Science at U of T.” The Faculty of Information announcement on its website, July 14, 2023, adds that, “Professor Cockshutt (BLS 1949, MLS 1964) was librarian and teacher of cataloguing at the University of Toronto, School of Library Science from her graduation in 1949 to 1961. She became a full-time instructor in 1964. She was also active in the administration of the School as Administrative Assistant to Dean Bertha Bassam, and, from 1984–87, as Associate Dean.” She retired at the rank of Emeritus Professor in 1992.

While being acknowledged as a specialist in classification theory, she was, in fact, recognized internationally for her deep knowledge of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). In her paper, “Dewey Today: An Analysis of Recent Editions”, presented at the 21st Allerton Park Institute in 1975, as part of the Dewey Centennial, Professor Emeritus Cockshutt wrote, “In my own research on classification systems, I have become increasingly fascinated by the ways in which the classification systems themselves are determined, shaped and changed by the people who devise and revise them.” By 1975 she had already completed five years as the Canadian appointee to the select Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (DCEPC). Serving among a group of ten internationally recognized experts in classification systems and their application, Cockshutt was one of “the people who devise and revise them”, having engaged in her advisory role on the DCEPC in the development of editions 18, 19, and 20 of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). As John P. Comaromi — himself an internationally recognized classification scholar — wrote in praise of the 19th edition of DDC in a 1975 paper, “Knowledge Organized is Knowledge Kept”, “Its most impressive quality ... was the abundant concern for making clear to the classifier how the system works and what is meant at those points where meanings may be vague.” I think that assessment applies equally well to how Professor Emeritus Cockshutt approached both her editorial responsibilities and her classroom teaching.

I never had the privilege of taking one of Cockshutt's legendary classes in cataloguing and classification, but remember with fondness my time working with her at the Faculty of Information. She had high standards for her students, no more so than for herself. She was a generous mentor to new faculty, a policy and procedure wonk within the school, a steady, reliable advisor to Deans, and a woman of great integrity. I was delighted to be invited as a friend and colleague to her 80th birthday. There I learned first-hand of how much she was loved and respected as “Aunt Muggsie.” She spoke so fondly and proudly of her family, of time savoured together, and of the pleasures of the many summer pursuits she relished at the cottage once July arrived and another school year was done. While I knew Margaret best as a colleague, what I will remember most is her sense of humour and infectious laugh. When approaching a difficult concept in classification with a class, she was renowned for exclaiming, “Here's where we separate the women from the girls!” Guaranteed to elicit a laugh, she managed to make something difficult more approachable. If we were to create a classification number to represent Professor Emerita Cockshutt, it would surely fit somewhere between “remarkable” and

“truly memorable.”

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## **Crooks, Sylvia Anne (Shorthouse), July 12, 1936 - May 26, 2022**

— posting on the University of British Columbia website, June 2022

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Sylvia Crooks, Professor Emerita of the School of Information, passed away peacefully in Vancouver on May 26, 2022. Born in Nelson, BC, Sylvia arrived in Vancouver in 1954 to pursue a BA degree in English and History at the University of British Columbia. After graduation, Sylvia and her husband, Michael, moved to New Haven, Connecticut, where Michael completed his doctorate at Yale University. Sylvia developed a lifelong interest in librarianship while working at the Yale University Library.

After returning to Vancouver, Sylvia returned to UBC to pursue a Master's degree in Library Science, graduating with top honours in 1983. Sylvia then joined the faculty of the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, as we were then called. She was one of our faculty members for 16 years and taught in our School until retiring in 2002.

Sylvia was nationally recognized as an authority in Library Science. She was an active member of the BC Library Association (BCLA) and the BC library community for many years. She served as President of BCLA from 1992 to 1993. She was also awarded a BCLA Honourary Membership in 1996 and the BCLA President's Award in 2000-2001 in recognition of her service to the association and to libraries in the province.

Sylvia will be remembered fondly as an endlessly selfless and compassionate influence on the lives of everybody who knew her.

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## **Ellis, Richard 'Dick' Harold, July 11, 1942-Dec. 2, 2025**

Born July 11, 1942, in Salem, Oregon, Dick came from the University of California San Francisco (BA), University of Washington (MLS), and Seattle University to Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1971. Dick brought his engaging and curious personality to the province, where he worked in Memorial University's libraries for 37 years. For his 25 years as University Librarian, his approach to librarianship, his interest in change, and his commitment to open dialogue placed Memorial on the map as one of the more progressive library management systems in Canada. He viewed the Queen Elizabeth II Library as a pillar of the community and snowshoed through blizzards to open it on more than one occasion.

Throughout his career, he received awards from a variety of library associations (CLA, APLA, CARL) but was most pleased to receive the Librarian Emeritus distinction in 2009 from Memorial University. This was a reminder of his love for the province, its history, its adventure, its invaluable educational institutions and the colleagues within. On campus, he was known for his humour, calm approach and interest in all elements of the university.

At home, he was found reading, tinkering with the '72 Triumph, and later the '85 VW Westfalia van, in which he and his wife, June, shared many camping adventures around Newfoundland. He enjoyed a good family game, the general contentment of others, and oration over a nice glass of wine. Never

one to forget a fact or detail, his retelling of stories often became as long and wonderful as the events themselves.

Dick was President of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (1986/87) and an active member of Ex Libris.

— contributed by Susan Hart:

I am very sad to hear that Dick Ellis has died. I remember him as a leader of many magnificent librarians at MUN, including my mother Anne Hart who worked closely with Dick and enjoyed his strong support for the Centre for Newfoundland Studies (which Mom ran) and also of the CNS Archives, both part of the Queen Elizabeth II Library at MUN. That library community was a special, strong one and Dick did a lot to encourage that. After retiring, he was a leading light (maybe founder) of a monthly retired librarians lunch that met for leisurely meals and excellent conversation at restaurants around St. John's (I am pretty sure the occasional glass of wine was consumed on these occasions). Mom lured me to come along a few times and I found acceptance even though I was a mid-career archivist in far-away BC. It was no surprise for me to encounter Dick again after I retired and joined ELA!

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## **Gillham, Virginia Ann, May 22, 1941 - Jan. 30, 2025**

— posted by the Friends of the Guelph Public Library and Ex Libris members

Virginia Gillham enjoyed a long and successful career as a university librarian and was a member of the Ex Libris Association. She received her bachelor's degree in history from McMaster University and a master's degree in library science from the University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana. At the University of Guelph, she was head of Circulation and then the Documentation Centre and Media Resource Centre for many years before becoming Assistant and Associate Librarian for Public Services. Virginia was University Librarian and Archivist at Wilfrid Laurier University from 1992–2002.

While at Guelph, Virginia helped develop CODOC, an innovative computer-based system for classifying and handling government documents. While at Wilfred Laurier, she provided key leadership in the development of a formal program of collaboration among Laurier, Waterloo, and Guelph library systems. This Tri-University model, centred on mutual collections and technology services, was an important 'proof of concept' for future provincial actions at the Ontario Council of University Libraries. Today all faculty and students benefit from what is essentially one university library. As well, Virginia was a role model and mentor who encouraged involvement in library organizations and provided librarians' with opportunities to gain valuable experience at conferences and publishing.

Virginia was a founder and pillar of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, serving as Chair of both the Executive and the Book Sale Committee for over 15 years. Her leadership, vision, and tireless dedication helped shape the success of the annual book sale and the Friends' ongoing support for the new central library. The popular book sale raised more than \$1,000,000 from 2007–23.

Beyond her contributions to the FGPL, Virginia's legacy spans many areas of community service. She was a longtime member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Guelph and served as a Board Chair and its church librarian. She was also a founding builder of the Guelph Youth Music Centre alongside her husband Robert, an Edward Johnson Music Foundation supporter and Guelph Spring Festival Board member. She was an active member of the United Way and Canadian Federation of University

Women. She was a member of the Wellington County Family and Children's Services Committee and the Wellington-Dufferin Homes for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Board.

Virginia was deeply involved in figure skating. As a figure skater, she passed her Canadian Figure Skating Association tests and enjoyed competing. Then, she became a national and international judge for Skate Canada and a dedicated supporter of the local skating club. In addition to all things skating, Virginia was an avid downhill skier and had a particular fondness for the Colorado Rockies.

In 2012, the city of Guelph recognized Virginia's extraordinary community impact with the Mayor's Award, a testament to her lifelong commitment to making Guelph a better place. The Guelph Youth Music Centre, which gave her its Volunteer Award in 2020, has launched the Virginia Gillham Memorial Bursary in memory of her passion for music.

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## **Harrison, Tanja Elizabeth, April 19, 1971 - Dec. 2, 2024**

— Contributed by Judy Dunn

The library community across Canada and particularly in the Maritimes is saddened by the passing of Tanja Harrison on December 2, 2024. She succumbed to a lengthy and courageous battle with metastatic breast cancer.

Born in Kingston, Ontario, Tanja spent most of her life in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. After graduating from Bishop's University with a BA in Classics, English and German in 1993 and she received her MLIS from Dalhousie University in 1996. She had a distinguished career at numerous academic libraries, including Acadia University and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and joined Mount St. Vincent University as University Librarian in 2012. She was currently working towards a PhD in Education Studies from Mount Saint Vincent University. Tanja loved travel, ceramics, crafts, art, vintage jewelry, new wave 80s music, and bringing joy to the world. Her smile and energy brightened any room.

In 2021, Tanya was awarded the [Outstanding Alumni Award by Dalhousie University's School of Information Management Alumni Association](#). Tanya was a member of Ex Libris and contributed "Maritimes News" to ELAN for many years. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends and colleagues.

— Contributed by Penny Logan

"I knew Tanja for many years and was personally uplifted by her positive outlook, her great smile, and her happy presence. Tanja had a full and robust career heading first the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design Library and then the Mount Saint Vincent University Library. She is greatly missed by the library community and by all those whose lives she touched. Her friends are working to ensure the world is a better place in Tanja's name. Read more about lovely, smiley, happy Tanja and her legacy by Jennie Dale at Dense Breasts Canada:"

We lost Tanja, a cherished mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, niece, friend, colleague. Last year, breast cancer brought us together.

In 2021, Tanja had a routine mammogram. She learned she had dense breasts and requested supplemental screening. That request was tragically denied — no one can access supplemental screening in Nova Scotia. Tanja was told her mammogram was fine, but actually a cancerous tumour

was hidden by dense tissue. And tumours not seen just keep growing and eventually spread. When the pain began in her back, hip and lower rib, she sought help, but was sent away three times by her family doctor who told her the pain was due to her being perimenopausal. She fractured her hip in early 2023, around the same time she felt the tumour on her own. She was diagnosed at Stage 4, with extensive bone metastases. She believed if she had been offered supplemental screening in 2021, she could have been in a position to fight for remission instead of being diagnosed as incurable.

Tanja had reason to be angry, but I never heard anger—instead I only heard a passionate voice from a kind and generous woman who gave her time to advocate for equitable access to supplemental screening. Tanja inspired me and our fellow Nova Scotia advocacy group members with her energy, dedication, and actions. She will be terribly missed.

We will honour Tanja's memory by continuing her work—pressing for change for those underserved by mammography and current inequitable policies. We will work for a future where no woman's life is cut short due to lack of access to essential screening.

Our deepest condolences to her daughter Gracie, husband Shane, parents Doris and John and brother Chris.

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## Henderson, Shirley Diane, Aug. 25, 1935 - Dec. 5, 2019

— Contributed by Irena Lewycka

Shirley Diane (Stott) Henderson died on December 5, 2019, at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto.

Diane attained her BLS (1964) and MLS (1967) at the University of Toronto. She began working in the catalogue section of the University of Toronto library in 1964. Diane was for many years the Chief Librarian of the Faculty of Library and Information Science Library at the University of Toronto from 1973 to her retirement in 1996. She had originally joined the Faculty as a lecturer in 1969. Diane continued her studies and received an MBA (York University) in 1979. In her later years, she dedicated her time to volunteering with the Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario Field Ornithologists, and Retired Academics and Librarians of the University of Toronto. Diane was an intensely independent person, an indefatigable traveller, a keen theatregoer, an opera buff, and an enthusiastic gardener. She was passionate about libraries and books.

Diane was co-author (with Edith Tyne Jarvi) of *Guide to Basic Reference Materials for Canadian Libraries*, 4th edition, published for the Faculty of Library Science by the University of Toronto Press in 1974.

Diane was a contributor to the National Library's publication by Claire England, *Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery in Canada* (Ottawa, 1983).

Diane was an ELAN special edition editor who wrote "University of Toronto Faculty of Information Studies" for ELAN's Summer 2004 special issue [A History of Education for Library and Information Studies in Canada](#).

Diane wrote "ELA's Early Years, 1990-1995" for the [Fall 2004 issue of ELAN](#) (p. 9 & 18) which celebrated the 100th anniversary of library education in Canada. As well, she compiled ELAN's regular column on "News from Canadian Library and Information Studies Schools" between 2007-2016.

Diane Henderson served on the executive committee of the Retired Academics and Librarians of the University of Toronto (RALUT) as Treasurer and became Vice-President in 2009.

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## **Horn, Steven Anne, May 19, 1944-Sept. 17, 2025**

— Published in the Globe and Mail, Oct. 11, 2025

Steven died of cancer in Nanaimo, BC, on September 17, 2025. He was a graduate of Victoria High School, Victoria, BC, earning degrees from the Universities of Victoria (BA, 1967), Toronto (MLS, 1969), and Saskatchewan (JD, 1983), and a diploma in legislative drafting from the University of Ottawa (1989). He had two careers, the first as a librarian, mainly in Ottawa and Brampton, ON, the second as a lawyer, mainly in Whitehorse, Yukon, where he was Legislative Counsel and Chief Legislative Counsel for twenty years. With his beloved wife, Marian (Meg), née Gelinias, he retired to the Nanaimo area in 2011. Not long after her death in 2019, Steven's health took a turn for the worse, prompting a move to Lakeside Gardens Seniors Community. He was active in his professions, had a fine sense of humour, and loved cats. He was also an avid fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

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## **Ingles, Ernest Boyce, Dec. 30, 1948-Sept. 17, 2020**

— Contributed by Merrill Distad to the Bibliographical Society of Canada and posted on the Librarianship.ca website, September 18, 2020

A graduate of the Universities of Calgary and British Columbia, Ernie Ingles, BA, MA, MLS, FRSC, was one of Canada's preeminent academic librarians and library innovators. During a professional career spanning more than four decades, he served successively as the founding Director of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (now [Canadiana.org](https://www.canadiana.org)); University Librarian of the University of Regina; Vice-Provost & University Librarian and (later) Director of the School of Library & Information Studies at the University of Alberta. He served, usually in executive capacity, on no fewer than twenty-five professional associations, societies, government boards and committees, including as President of the Canadian Library Association (CLA); of the Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC/SBC); of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL); and of the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL).

Mr Ingles also provided the inspiration and driving force in linking Alberta library resources and services through the creation of Alberta's NEOS library consortium; of The Alberta Library (TAL) lending consortium of 300 libraries across the Province; of the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library; of the Health Knowledge Network (HKN); and the First Nations Information Connection. These initiatives changed the face of library service across Alberta, and provided a much-studied and imitated model of library cooperation and sharing for the rest of Canada, as well as abroad.

Concern for the future of the library profession led him to establish the Northern Exposure to Leadership Institute (NELI) to expose recently graduated librarians who have shown leadership potential to an intensive exploration of vision, risk taking, creativity, communication, and differing styles of leadership. More than 400 librarians practicing in Canada have learned from their NELI experience. In recognition, the American Library Association presented Ingles with the 2017 Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship.

Mr Ingles' work at CIHM/Canadiana.org led to the filming and later digital preservation of Canada's printed, published heritage of books, periodicals, and pamphlets. It also inspired his creation of the [Peel's Prairie Provinces Website](#) at the University of Alberta containing full digital texts of many thousands of Western Canadian books and printed ephemera. His wide-ranging research in western Canadian history and bibliography, library history, library automation and management, and the preservation of the printed record, yielded ten published books, fifty-seven articles and chapters in books, and almost 200 conference papers and public presentations. These cumulative achievements garnered twenty-nine professional awards and four medals, including the Tremaine Medal of the Bibliographical Society of Canada. Of these many awards, he was perhaps most proud of his election in 2001 as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada – the first practicing librarian to be so honoured – and Red Crow College's award in 2011 of the honorary degree of Blackfoot Eminent Scholar Kainai PhD, along with the Blackfoot title "Kaaahssinnin" ("Elder"). As a visionary, Ernie Ingles led and inspired many others to follow.

— Comment by Wendy Newman

I was a Mentor at the first three cohorts of Northern Exposure to Leadership, which Ernie created and directed. It was a transformative experience for everyone involved, and its impact will be visible for a long time to come. In inspiring the 8Rs study as well, Ernie shone a light on human resources in the entire Canadian library sector. He always prompted librarians to consider themselves leaders of a big tent movement, and never just operators of institutions. Never forgotten.

— Association of Research Libraries Memorial to Ernie Ingles, published September 25, 2020  
[authored by Kaylyn Groves]

Ernest Boyce "Ernie" Ingles, Librarian Emeritus and former vice-provost and chief librarian for the University of Alberta, died on September 17, 2020, at age 71.

Early in his career, Ingles was the founding director of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (now Canadiana.org) 1978–1983 and university librarian for the University of Regina 1984–1990. At the University of Alberta he served as vice-provost and chief librarian 1990–2013 and director of the School of Library and Information Studies 2010–2013.

In 1993 Ingles established the Northern Exposure to Leadership Institute (NELI) to expose new librarians to an exploration of vision, risk taking, creativity, communication, and differing styles of leadership. More than 400 librarians have participated in NELI. In recognition, the American Library Association presented Ingles with the 2017 Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship.

Of his many honors, Ingles was most proud of two: in 2001 he was the first practicing librarian to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and in 2011 he received the honorary degree Blackfoot Eminent Scholar Kainai PhD from Red Crow College along with the Blackfoot title Kaaahssinnin ("Elder").

Over the course of his career, Ingles served as president of the Canadian Library Association, the Bibliographical Society of Canada, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries, and the OCLC Members Council.

Ingles was active in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) throughout his time as the ARL member representative from the University of Alberta, culminating in his service on the ARL Board of Directors 2010–2013. He served on numerous ARL committees and working groups, including the Statistics and Assessment Committee 1991–1993 and 2008–2010, Diversity Committee 1994–1996 and 2000–2002, Working Group on Copyright Issues 1994–1997, Information Policies Committee

1995–1997, SPARC Steering Committee (ex officio) 2001, Research Library Leadership and Management Committee 2003–2005, Task Force on Strategic Planning 2004, Nominating Committee 2009, Membership Committee 2011–2013, and AAUP/ARL Working Group on University Press/Research Library Collaboration 2012–2013.

— Calgary Herald, published October 26, 2020

Ernie departed this life at the University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton in his 71st year with his wife and daughter by his side. Loving husband of Mary-Jo Romaniuk and proud father of Erin Moore (Jamie). Doting grandfather to Matthew, Wyatt, and Linden, whom he cherished. Predeceased by his parents, Robert of Calgary and Muriel of Kelowna.

Born in Calgary, Ernie graduated from the University of Calgary with a BA and MA degrees in history and the history of agricultural technology. In 1974 he graduated from the University of British Columbia with an MLS winning the Ruth Cameron Medal for Librarianship.

Ernie Ingles was one of Canada's preeminent academic librarians and library innovators. During a professional career spanning more than four decades, his first role was as the Rare Books and Special Collections Librarian at the University of Calgary where he contributed to the development of their special collections most notably the Canadian Authors Manuscript collection and the Canadian Architectural Archives. In 1977 he worked with a group to establish the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM) where he became the first Executive Director and CEO. His work at CIHM led to the filming and later digital preservation of Canada's printed and published works. Thereafter, he served as the University Librarian of the University of Regina. In 1990 he joined the University of Alberta as Chief Librarian, assuming the role of Associate Vice President (Learning Services) and ultimately Vice-Provost & University Librarian. Prior to his retirement in 2015 he served as Director of the School of Library & Information Studies.

Ernie served in executive capacity on more than twenty-five professional associations, societies, government boards and committees including holding leadership roles in the Bibliographical Society of Canada; the Canadian Association of Research Libraries; and of the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries; OCLC Members Council and the Association of Research Libraries.

Ernie was the driving force in linking Alberta library resources and services through the creation of Alberta's NEOS library consortium; The Alberta Library; the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library; the Health Knowledge Network; and the First Nations Information Connection.

These initiatives changed library service in Alberta, and provided a model of library cooperation that was imitated across Canada and abroad. He was very proud to receive Red Crow College's award of the honorary degree of Blackfoot Eminent Scholar Kainai, along with the Blackfoot title "Kaaahssinnin".

His crowning achievement was the creation of the Northern Exposure to Leadership Institute (NELI) that is internationally acclaimed as a landmark contribution to professional leadership development. More than 400 librarians have developed their leadership potential through the NELI experience. In recognition, the American Library Association presented Ingles with the 2017 Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship.

His research in western Canadian history and bibliography and library administration yielded ten published books, fifty-seven articles and chapters in books, and almost 200 conference papers and public presentations. It also inspired his creation of the Peel's Prairie Provinces Website at the University of Alberta containing full digital texts of many thousands of Western Canadian books and printed ephemera. Ernie's body of scholarly work culminated in numerous awards including the

Tremaine Medal of the Bibliographical Society of Canada. Of these awards, he was perhaps most proud of his 2001 election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

In 2013 Ernie was diagnosed with an inherited disorder, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency. Rather than accepting the diagnosis passively he became a Patient Services Coordinator with AlphaNet Canada. In 2019 he received a double lung transplant.

What many remember Ernie for best was his ability to make each person feel special and capable. He believed in the innate ability that we all have to achieve great things no matter who we are or how we how we lived. He instilled a sense of self-belief in those he met. Indeed, what brought him great joy was seeing others, the library community, and especially his family, thrive.

The [Ernest \(Ernie\) B. Ingles Reading Room located in Bruce Peel Special Collections](#), University of Alberta Library.

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## **Israel, Fred C., Jan. 23, 1933 - Aug. 5, 2024**

— posting on the Windsor Public Library website

Fred C. Israel was born in 1933 in Kitchener, Ontario and attended grade school there. After graduating from high school, Israel studied at St. Jerome College which was affiliated with the University of Ottawa. He received his B.A. from the University of Ottawa in 1957, and then went to the University of Toronto to study Library Science.

He worked for a while at the Kitchener Public Library, and there met his future wife, Fred IsraelCallie. He accepted a position as cataloguer at the Canadian Department of Agriculture. In 1959, he moved to Richmond Hill and became the chief librarian. There, he built a new main library. He then moved to St. Catharines, Ontario, and became the chief librarian. Under his supervision, the central library was completely renovated, and he designed two branch libraries which were situated in shopping malls.

In 1968, Israel became the director of the Windsor Public Library. In Windsor, he spearheaded the plan to replace the old Carnegie Library which had been built in 1903, and was too small for the collection of books. The new location was to be on Ouellette Avenue (850), and the new library was opened in 1973. In the mid 1980's, Israel took the initiative to convert the library's circulation system to a computerized system. This included the circulation system, and a computerized catalogue. Finally, on June 10th, 1986, the old card catalogue was sealed, and replaced by the new catalogue.

Mr. Israel was a firm believer in free library services to the public. In 1992, he received the W. J. Robertson Medallion from the Ontario Library Boards' Association for outstanding leadership in the advancement of public library service in Ontario. He also retired from the Windsor Public in this year.

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## **Kehoe, Douglas Edward Joseph, July 4, 1942-Jan. 2, 2023**

— Contributed by Leslie B. Koster

Douglas Edward Joseph Kehoe was born in Toronto on July 4, 1942 and lived there his entire life. He faithfully maintained friendships and connections from primary school, to university, to those he met

throughout his career as a librarian and Publisher's representative.

After getting his library degree, Douglas joined the North York Public Library in the early 70s, and climbed quickly through the ranks, from public service at the Bathurst Heights District Branch, to the Collection Development Department, to L2 (team leader) at the Don Mills District Branch in the late 70s, to Manager of the Fairview District Branch. He then moved into the Collection Department in the Technical Services Division. In 1987 Douglas retired from the library system and went on to be involved in the Canadian publishing scene, both with Gordon S. Garner Associates and with McClelland and Stewart, as Library Sales Manager from 1988 to 1998. He returned to the library world as the Sunday Manager of the North York Central Library from the Fall of 2007 until June 2012.

I knew Douglas for 50 years and I was privileged to call him friend. He was a most erudite gentleman with a delightful sense of humour; he was a master of the bon mot, through which the simple picnic became a "Grande fete champetre" and hello was "a gracious good afternoon". He was a devoted supporter and collector of hippopotamuses of all shapes and sizes! Douglas's great attention and kindness to his friends was repaid for all of us, by the dedication and care given him by his soulmate and husband, Richard Henry, who was there for him at all times and especially when Douglas most needed the support of a tireless advocate.

People from his world of friends have sent memories and sincere words of sympathy and respect for this wonderful man.

- "He was a true Prince of a man who inspired so many people in the library and the book world. He was a legend at the Fairview Library for his exceptional leadership qualities. I know of several staff who went on to library school with his encouragement...it was an honour to know him."

- "When I started as a library rep with my publishing firm he shepherded me through, showing me the ropes around conferences, sharing his contacts and what would come to be known as 'best practices'. He didn't have to, but that generosity was part of what made him one of the great gentlemen of the industry. Only HE could have tracked down the industrial strength butter tarts we enjoyed at the Charlottetown Conference, and only HE would have understood the necessity of dropping to his knees with me on the path to Green Gables, chanting "Oh she, who pays our salaries!" I am truly sorry for the next generation of reps, who will not have had a gallant and knowledgeable guide such as Douglas to explain what is really important."

- "I am so saddened that the world has lost one of its great lights, but the brightness he brought to my life is something I will always remember and treasure."

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## **L'Esperance, Jean, May 7, 1934-July 8, 2022**

— Contributed by Wendy Scott

On July 8th 2022, Jean Larence Mills l'Esperance, librarian and archivist, died in Ottawa. Born in England, she married David l'Esperance of Montreal in the 1950s, and earned an MA and PhD in history from McGill University. Her wide-ranging career included positions at a midwifery hospital and at McGill University's School of Social Work, then at the National Library of Canada and Archives Canada.

Jean was instrumental in the 1980 Canadian Human Rights Act granting wage parity to librarians with historians, citing discriminatory practice between male and female employees. Chris Rodgers a

colleague, described her contribution as follows:

“Jean was Chief Steward of the new LS local at the National Library/Public Archives. The Library Science (LS) Group in 1976/77 changed unions (along with about 6 other groups). She organized meetings with the membership to study the very low wages of librarians in the Public Service (and in society at large). They were able to establish that the Historical Research Group (Archivists) earned about \$3,000 more than did librarians; archivists were 75% male-dominated at the time, and librarians were about 75% female dominated. This fit the criteria for a pay equity complaint before the new Canadian Human Rights Commission, but under the legislation we had to exhaust other means to try and resolve the issue.”

More meetings, many of which were organized by Jean, most of which were to explain why the union had to at the time, shift from Arbitration for contract dispute resolution, to Conciliation/strike, why grievances had to be filed, etc., both actions of which were not looked upon favorably by all of the membership. The grievances failed, but made the membership aware of the issue; the Conciliation Board ruled the issue of pay equity to be beyond its purvey so a complaint was filed. More meetings [were held] with those members of the LS Group in the union, who had been selected by the parties as exemplars of the work performed by the LS Group. In the fall of 1980, the CHRC pronounced in favour of the Group. In December, the cheques were issued, retroactive to March 1978.

There were other battles ahead. The larger Public Service-wide pay equity study in the 1990s not only vindicated the early work by Sabine Sonnemann, Jean l’Esperance, and Sandy Burrows, but since the comparison with the archivists involved a lower paid male dominated group, librarians received an increase in equalization adjustments. Around the time of the Public-Service-wide study, at the negotiating table, we were able to merge to equalization adjustments from the 1980 LS/HR complaint with the equalization adjustments from the larger study to have everything come together in the collective agreement.

Librarians in the Federal Government and its agencies can thank the original pioneers, such as Jean, Sabine Sonnemann and others for the fact that at some levels, pay was increased by over 10%. Sabine Sonneman and Jean published an article in the Canadian Library Journal about the decision, on December 17th 1980, of the Canadian Human Rights Commission to order Treasury Board to pay librarians a salary equal to that of historians. In 2000, Sabine Sonneman received a Status of Women Award in 2000 for her pay equity effort.

Jean was passionate about history, and had a remarkable memory. After retiring, she was an active volunteer for the Ottawa Historical Society. A celebration of remembrance was held July 17th at Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa, attended by the many friends who had supported her during her months of hospitalization leading up to her death.

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## **Looney, Jim, died November 9, 2024**

—Contributed by Deb Thomas

Jim was not one of those librarians with his name in lights (so to speak). He chiefly worked - quietly, effectively and diligently - to improve public library service in British Columbia. Most of the BC Library community knew him through his work with the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) where he was employed for 30 years and for his support of the BC Library Association (BCLA). He was, in the words of a colleague and friend, “a diplomat, a visionary, and a bridge-builder.”

In his work with PLSB, he negotiated with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to get computers, the internet, and technology training into every BC public library, especially those serving under 10,000 population. He worked to automate the small libraries in the 1990s when many still had manual card catalogues and circulation processes and later helped negotiate purchase and ongoing development of an open source automated system. He coordinated the movement of the provincial library catalogue microfiche to CD-Rom and eventually online. He found resources for small libraries to create websites. And he connected us to various provincially purchased digital resources. Working with various PLSB directors over his career, he guided us all into the digital age with patience and tact (and sometimes much needed blunt honesty). Among other projects, he shepherded the B.C. Summer Reading Club and Books for Babies.

With BCLA, he established the BCLA Bibliotique allowing us to buy library related products at every BC library conference and raising thousands of dollars for the association – as well as assisting the association in various other endeavours including its role in the Little Sisters court case against the CBSA.

Before his retirement, he was awarded BCLA's Helen Gordon Stewart Award in 2005-06 – “given infrequently to recognize an outstanding or important career in librarianship involving a visible or readily identifiable achievement that brings honour to the entire profession”.

Before he died, he asked that there not be obituaries and celebrations for him. So let this serve instead as a tribute to an extraordinary librarian and friend who left his indelible mark on the BC library community.

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## **McLeod, Lori, 1959-Dec. 17, 2019**

— Contributed by Leslie McGrath, former Senior Department Head, Osborne Collection, Toronto Public Library

We were grieved to learn of the death of our dear friend and colleague Lori McLeod, who passed away in December from cancer. Lori obtained her M.L.S. degree at the University of Toronto's library school, now the Faculty of Information, and began at working at the Toronto Public Library's Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books not long after the Collection opened in its Huron Street location, in the Lillian H. Smith branch. Lori chose Osborne after being redeployed from Deer Park, and how fortunate we at Osborne were when she arrived and began at once to study the cataloguing of rare books. Often having to chart her own instruction and to seek out knowledge, Lori was delighted to be sent, largely through the generosity of The Friends of the Osborne and Lillian H. Smith Collections, to Rare Book School in Virginia for a specialized, intensive course. The cataloguing of the Osborne Collection was Lori's priority, and the support given to this important project by the library and especially by the Friends gave her great encouragement.

Lori told me she liked to think about how patrons would use the catalogue records, and would carefully include the terms and references that would be most helpful to them. Though a warm, engaging, and knowledgeable lecturer, willing to assist colleagues by taking classes and groups, Lori was happiest doing reference work and cataloguing. Modest and self-effacing, Lori put everyone else's needs first, from desk schedules to holiday weeks, and while devoted to her own family she took a personal interest in those of her colleagues. Above all, we will remember Lori's beautiful smile and generous outlook, her habits of always seeing the best in everyone and of making difficult situations better. Years of ill health took a toll on her strength, but never affected her caring and

compassionate nature. Lori will always be missed by those fortunate enough to have known her.

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## **Patterson, Flora Elaine, Dec. 28, 1930 - Nov. 16, 2025**

— Contributed by Kathryn Mikoski

I first met Flora on September 15, 1971. It was my first day on the job as a professional librarian at the National Library of Canada (now Library and Archives Canada). The day was a blur of introductions and tours. I do remember though, that Flora stood out as a manager. (Her exact title at the time I do not remember – probably Chief of Reference.) She was wearing a “pant suit”. This was, I found out later, rather unusual for the time and proved to be something we had in common. I had distinguished myself with my Public Service interviewers at university as the woman “in a pant suit”! I was hired as an LS 1 (denoting my junior position in the organization). Flora was an LS 6. So you see, we were several levels apart on the organization chart. There were other barriers to friendship which took years to scale. Physically, Flora was housed in a rather large corner office with full walls and a door that closed. Lesser managers might have a half-wall; supervisors might have a screen. The rest of us had desks in a large open concept room. At that time, I would never have called her Flora – she was Miss Patterson.

Although Flora was responsible for a large and diverse staff, she was always alert for opportunities to encourage and develop people at all levels. She did her best to support requests to attend and participate in conferences. She would recommend staff members for special assignments that not only provided learning opportunities but also enhanced their visibility and career prospects. I was a beneficiary of such encouragement. On the other hand, she was very loyal to long time colleagues at all levels, and very insistent that problems of performance be handled with compassion given her knowledge of personal histories.

I left the National Library after several years but retained many contacts. In fact, Flora and her friend and colleague Jean Higginson sat behind me at concerts at the National Arts Centre. One evening Jean suggested that I apply for a position under her part of the organization. I did and returned to my “home” at the National Library, this time just one supervisor away from Flora.

A longer article about Flora Patterson with pictures contributed by Kathryn Mikoski and Betty Deavy is [at this ELA link](#).

— Contributed by Maria Calderisi Bryce

When I joined the Music Division at the National Library in 1973, “Miss Patterson” was Director of the Public Services Branch, three levels above me in the administrative hierarchy, with Drs. Kallmann and Wees in between.

She was a calm and gentle manager and always friendly and approachable if we happened to meet in the hallway or at a concert. But we had little direct contact until I was seconded to her office as her administrative assistant for a few months. It was a very good experience for me, besides an opportunity to get to know her better. She was particularly kind and helpful to me during a personally difficult time but she became “Flora” to me only after her retirement when our mutual love of music brought us more often into contact and we became good friends.

I shall miss her soft-spoken expressions of enthusiasm and affection and her subtle sense of humour. I shall never forget her.

## **Piternick, Anne (Brearley), Oct. 13, 1926 - Jan. 20, 2023**

— Obituary published by Dignity Memorial for a service on March 30, 2023

Anne Brearley Piternick was born in Blackburn, Lancashire to Ellen and Walter Harrison Clayton, sister to Walter and Ellen, and also to Betty, Mary, Florence, Tom, Harry, and Norman, her Father's first family.

Anne's early years were spent in Blackburn and, during the war, in a small village in Yorkshire. She attended Manchester University where she graduated in 1945 with an Honours BA in English Language and Literature, and a year later, a Teacher's Diploma. She began her library career in 1952 as an Information Officer for the Research Department of a Manchester textile company. After qualifying as an Associate of the British Library Association (later, Fellow), Anne learned about opportunities at the University of British Columbia Library and, in 1956, flew to Vancouver when she was offered a position as Librarian. She never looked back. In 1966, she was hired as Associate Professor in the UBC School of Librarianship (now the School of Information), and then Professor (1978) until her retirement in 1991.

Her teaching and research interests included special libraries, authorship, indexing, and access to the scientific literature. In the 1970s, her engagement in advancing Canadian bibliography to reflect the growth of research and publication led to her serving as Chair of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Awards Committee for Bibliography and Archives, the first time these areas were supported by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. With the advent of computerization, her work on alternatives for the scientific journal, scientific authorship, and online searching were seminal contributions, including development of a course in online searching. Her final research project, using the development of the Historical Atlas of Canada, investigated the representation of cartographic information visually in the transition from print to computer.

Anne was active in the UBC Faculty Association and was the Senate Faculty Association Representative (1969-72), at that time the only other woman in Senate apart from the Dean of Women. She was Associate Dean of Arts (1985-90), the first woman to serve in the Dean of Arts office.

Professional activities included President of the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services (1969-70), the Canadian Library Association (1976-77), member of the National Library Advisory Board (1978-84), and of Committees of SSHRC (1981-87). She received many awards and distinctions for services to her profession and University. In 1987, she was Distinguished Visiting Professor at UCLA, and in her retirement, President, Association of Professors Emeriti (2003), and an active Member of the President's Advisory Committee on Campus Enhancement (2004-22) and Chair (2018-20).

Shortly after her arrival in Vancouver, Anne was joined by Neil Brearley, and they married and built a home together. In 1971 after they divorced, Anne married George Piternick. Anne and George shared their lives for thirty years until his death in 1999. He supported her busy career and they had great happiness together. They travelled in the Pacific Northwest and the Southwest USA to explore native cultures and landscapes, as well as to England, Europe and Scandinavia. Their shared interest in First Nations culture was reflected in long-standing support of the UBC Museum of Anthropology. They were great hosts and Anne's wonderful cooking made their dinner parties legendary. Her fashion sense was notable, as was her talent for sewing stylish clothes.

After George's death, Anne continued her full life in their home, and then from 2015, in Tapestry at UBC, maintaining her committee work, patronage, concerts, gallery visits, and meals with acquaintances of all ages. She died peacefully on January 20, 2023, after a brief illness.

"A real force of nature," Anne will be much missed by her relatives and friends for her generosity, talent for connecting people, and commitment to giving back.

On their marriage day, George gave Anne a necklace with a quote from John Donne: "All other things to their destruction draw, Only our love hath no decay; This no to-morrow hath, nor yesterday; Running it never runs from us away, But truly keeps his first, last, everlasting day."

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## **Richards, (William) Neil, May 11, 1949-Jan. 12, 2018**

Neil Richards was born on May 11, 1949, in Ontario. He began his career with the University of Saskatchewan Library as a library assistant in the reference department in 1971 and then in the special collections department until his retirement in 2002. Neil's life work was preserving the history and archival record of Saskatchewan's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, while at the same time playing an active role in Saskatoon gay activism, AIDS awareness campaigns, and human rights, which was a doubly challenging prospect in the 1970s when speaking out could risk employment, housing, and family, not to mention incarceration or at the least police harassment. In the early 1980s, he took an unpaid leave of absence from the Library and worked as a volunteer at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives in Toronto. Returning to Saskatchewan in 1983 he worked on some of the earliest AIDS awareness campaigns, again, in an era where such work was stigmatized and before government health and education organizations were prepared to advocate for the needs of people living with AIDS. The collection in the University includes more than 10,000 books as well as periodicals, buttons, posters, private letters, postcards, mimeographed newsletters, manuscripts, and flags used by activists. Many of the materials date back to the settlement era in the Prairies. It is reputed to be the largest collection of LGBTQ2S+ books and ephemera of any university library in Canada. He also donated a massive collection of documents, well over 17 metres of boxes, to the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, the first donation of its kind to a Canadian public archives.

Neil was a significant community leader whose professional and volunteer efforts almost single-handedly provided a legacy of rich research material for generations to come. After retirement, he researched and wrote *Celebrating a History of Diversity: Lesbian and Gay Life in Saskatchewan*, an annotated chronology of the Province's queer past that was published in 2006, an essential resource for researchers. In 1995 Neil was the initial recipient of the University of Saskatchewan President's Service Award and in 2005 he received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal. In 2010, Neil's contributions were formally recognized when the University of Saskatchewan's sexual and gender diversity archival collection was renamed the Neil Richards Collection of Sexual and Gender Diversity in his honour. In 2018, his legacy was further honoured with the posthumous award of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

There is a short video about the [Neil Richards Collection of Sexual and Gender Diversity](#) at the University of Saskatchewan.

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## **Ross, Catharine Sheldrick, Nov. 4, 1945-Sept. 11, 2021**

— Contributed by Lynne McKechnie, Paulette Rothbauer, Lucía Cedeira Serantes, and Pam McKenzie, Faculty of Information & Media Studies, Western University, London, ON, Canada

Catherine Sheldrick Ross, FRSC, had a way of loping down hallways, across campuses, striding up to podiums—she cut an unmistakable, instantly recognizable figure, with her bag slung over her shoulder, a relaxed slouch, arms swinging at her sides. For a while, during her stint as Dean of the Faculty of Information & Media Studies she had a scooter – one of those foot-powered kind that folded up and could be carried into meetings. Always graceful, comfortable, and on the move. That is until she saw you and she would stop and move towards you with energy, eagerness, and an openness that would put you into the light of her attention, and you found yourself telling her about your latest adventures, accomplishments, exploits, or about whatever last fresh hell you were dealing with. And she had an enviable gift as a listener, and almost always she would say very little, but somehow always said the perfect thing, the thing you most needed to hear. It is no surprise that Catherine’s key methodologies relied on these same characteristics whether the context was academic leadership, reading and reference research, teaching, sharing research with librarians and library workers, or mentorship of new scholars and students. She always began by understanding context and need from doing careful background research; she paid close attention to what people were saying and doing; she listened carefully and without judgment, and she created opportunities for people to share their ideas and interpretations. And then, mindful of her audiences always, she took responsibility for the stories she told of what she learned—in lucid, lively, and engaging form—whether committee report, strategic plan, scholarly article, children’s illustrated book, LIS textbook, or presentation, guest lecture, keynote speech, and more.

Catherine was a brilliant scholar who made theoretical and empirical advances while always keeping the needs of professional practice at the forefront. In addition to publishing highly-cited and award-winning research articles, she made a difference to generations of reference librarians through her thorough, well-written, sensible evidence-based guides to professional communication, the reference interview, and readers and reading. She was a collaborative researcher and worked with colleagues in Canada, the United States, Japan, and Norway. Her MLIS students remember her as a brilliant instructor whose teaching and research had a positive impact on their professional careers.

Several former doctoral students and colleagues shared how grateful they were to have known Catherine. They remember her as one of their academic heroes and most influential mentors. She was vital and supportive, intellectually generous, and gracious with her time and attention to beginning scholars. She was well-respected, calm and measured during crises, and had a wry sense of humour. She mentored both by what she did and how, teaching us to be clear, audience-focused academic writers and incisive-but-compassionate reviewers of others’ work. She was a mentor, coach, colleague, and inspiration who made an indelible impact on the careers of many leading LIS scholars. As one colleague said, “She clearly left a positive impact on so many of us and what better legacy for an academic is there?”

We each had different relationships with Catherine Ross, however as researchers whose work is a direct result of knowing and learning from Cath, we place ourselves on the privileged branches on her academic family tree. She was a treasured colleague, mentor, and friend, and we will miss her.

All our best advice came from Cath. And while we can’t possibly include everything we learned from her here, we highlight a few of our favourites:

*Work with people who care about you and your success.* This advice came to us as graduate students

and we all learned it by observing how much Cath cared about our projects, our careers, and by her consistent—years long—support. Not only did Cath invite us to collaborate with her throughout our careers, and well past her retirement in 2010, she would send a note of congratulations on new publications, new grants, new positions—and not just to us—but to colleagues and advisees she had known across her career. It meant so much to know that she was still thinking about us.

*Travel light, with carry-on luggage.* Each of us carries a picture in our mind of Cath disembarking one plane or another, patiently waiting in the airport, her hands free, with her knapsack on her back, while we were clumsily managing our bags, looking for our suitcases on the conveyor belt. Of course, this is excellent travel advice, however, it stands up as career guidance too: set yourself up to be nimble, capable, encumbered with only what you really need, and be ready to respond. You should know that Cath carried a Swiss Army knife too.

*Be ready to give more rope.* Among doctoral student advisees it was understood that Cath wouldn't ever really tell you what you should do (or not do) and she would rarely tell you how to do it. She had too much respect for your autonomy as a researcher, and even more respect for the important process of learning how to do research and how to be a researcher. However, she would always find a way to give you more time, more resources, more feedback, more ideas, and more opportunities. What you did with the rope was always up to you.

*Invite others to join the party.* Cath Ross concludes the introduction to one of her last books, *The Pleasures of Reading: A Booklover's Alphabet* (2014, Libraries Unlimited) by writing, "This book is intended as a celebration of readers and the pleasures of reading. I invite readers to join the party." Reading for pleasure was one of the most defining features of Cath's scholarly and personal lives. We know her best as a reader, as a champion of people who choose to read for pleasure whether it's *Anna Karenina* or *Anne of Green Gables*, and as an advocate for the value and importance of reading as a social good. We will carry our memories of her animated conversation, whether at dinner parties, at research meetings, or at The Book Club, of the way she leaned in to ask questions, hands and face open, eyes glinting with good humour. Our lives have been changed and made richer by getting that generous invitation, again and again. And it is one of our great pleasures to keep the party going.

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## Schabas, Ann, May 14, 1926-Nov. 8, 2023

— from the University of Toronto Faculty of Information News, December 2023

In Memoriam: Dean and Professor Emerita Ann Schabas Dean, Faculty of Information and Library Science (1984 - 1990)

When colleagues, friends and family of the late Ann Schabas reflect on her career and scholarship, the picture that emerges is one of a woman who was quietly ahead of her time.

Before she took up library science, Ann Schabas earned two degrees in physics, an unusual choice for a woman at the time. But after a short stint working in a lab, Schabas left physics behind, married in 1949, and had five children, all born in the 1950s. She returned to university in 1964 as her youngest child was entering nursery school and completed the one-year Bachelor of Library Science program at the University of Toronto.

When Margaret Schabas, Ann's middle child and only girl, asked her mother a few years ago if she would have liked to pursue a career in physics, Ann replied that she lacked the talent to do the PhD.

But it is also not clear to Margaret why her mother picked library science. "I think there was still a strong assumption that you do the women's fields because, in her graduating class at U of T in physics, there were two other women she kept in touch with, and one went on to be a professor of nursing and the other went into education."

As it turned out, Schabas excelled at library school, placing second in her class. On convocation day, the Toronto Star featured Schabas in a human interest story about the unusual graduate with five children. Schabas first worked for two years in the science division of the Toronto Board of Education before returning to U of T to start her career as an assistant professor.

Official Dean's portrait of Ann Schabas

Ann Schabas received both her MLS and Doctorate from University College in London

Ann's husband, Ezra Schabas, a distinguished professor of music at U of T, always supported her career. Margaret recalls, however, that her mother met resistance from other faculty. One well-known professor wasn't concerned that Schabas lacked the requisite qualifications but expressed concern for her five children and, on these grounds, initially opposed her appointment. It wouldn't be fair to the children, he told her.

The professor need not have worried. Nearly every article written about Ann Schabas mentions the accomplishments of her children. Margaret (FRSC) is a philosophy professor at the University of British Columbia. From eldest to youngest, William (OC) is a prominent professor specializing in international criminal and human rights law, Richard is the former Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health, Michael is an urban planner and transportation expert, and Paul is a judge on the Ontario Superior Court.

At U of T, Schabas put her science training to work, teaching, among other things, an early programming course. Margaret recalls that her mother taught her former partner, André Vellino, how to code. "She was sort of a geek before her time and got really excited about technical things," said Vellino, who is now – partly due to Ann's influence – an associate professor at the University of Ottawa School of Information.

After tenure, Schabas took a sabbatical to do a Master of Library Science at University College in London and then followed it up with a PhD. One of Schabas's specialties was SNOBOL, a variant of the programming language COBOL, which had specific capabilities for manipulating strings, making it especially useful in bibliographic and library applications for searching substrings and matching content and databases with queries. Schabas's doctoral thesis compared the results of sample computer searches using the subject classifications of the Library of Congress and British Library, determining that the latter was more effective for these searches.

During the late seventies, Schabas participated in the development of Telidon, which was billed by its developer, the Canadian Communications Research Centre, as a "second generation videotex system, offering improved performance and a number of different interactivity options supported on various hardware." Schabas worked on Telidon's so-called tree structures for information retrieval.

Professor Emerita Lynne Howarth, who is also a former Dean of the Faculty of Information, describes Schabas as "a visionary" for her recognition of the importance of computer and information technology for the future education of library and information science students. Schabas helped the transition to the newly named Faculty of Library and Information Science, as well as inaugurating a new degree, the Master of Information Science (MIS).

Another change made by Schabas during her time as Dean was introducing the option to study part-time. As a working single mother, Wendy Newman (BLS, '69) took advantage of the new part-time

program to earn her MLS over a four-year period. While Newman's busy schedule didn't allow for campus socializing, she did make time to attend her convocation ceremony.

"It was a freezing cold November night and pelting ice cold rain. There were just five of us getting an MLS degree that night, but when they called our names, there on the stage, gowned and beaming at all of us was Dean Schabas. She came to honour her graduates that night. I'll never forget it."

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## **Scholtz, Matthew G., April 6, 1946-June 19, 2023**

— Contributed by Andrew Scholtz

Husband, father, always curious about life. He came into this world naturally, but left it on his own terms, on June 19, 2023, after a four-month, long suffering battle with complications from cancer. Matthew Scholtz is especially pleased to make his final exit currently, to avoid the next 18 months of crazy, unprincipled, and ugly American politics.

Born in Czechoslovakia on April 6, 1946, Matt lived in Germany until his family immigrated to Kitchener, Ontario in April 1951. After graduating from St. Jerome's High School in Kitchener, he attended the University of Western Ontario, where he earned an Honours B.A. in History and English, followed by a Masters in Library Science. In August, 1970, he was appointed Chief Librarian of the Tillsonburg Public Library, a position he held until his retirement in September 2010. He founded and became the first chairperson of the Association of Small Public Libraries of Ontario (1980) and served on many area and provincial library committees. In his early tenure at the library, he was given a professional opportunity: design and manage a new Public Library. The new building opened in June 1975, but without his presence at the official opening ceremonies. Exhausted by the final preparations, he wound up in the hospital with pneumonia,

In 1984, he edited and provided photographs for "Tillsonburg: A History, 1825-1982", which was co-authored by J.I. Cooper and John Armstrong. A decade later, he wrote "Tillsonburg Diary: A Chronological History 1824-1994", based on a monograph by Anna M. Bailey. His last book, "Tillsonburg Album: A Photographic History", was published in 2014. Aside from being Library C.E.O., he served as Executive Secretary of the Tillsonburg Chamber of Commerce (1977 - 2010), and as a freelance correspondent for the London Free Press (1976-90). For the Tillsonburg News, he wrote two weekly columns over 40 years, one dealing with library issues and the other with local history. He was active in Theatre Tillsonburg, on and off stage, as well as administratively as long-term, long-suffering treasurer of the Theatre Board.

There was nothing that pleased him more than to make people smile by telling a joke. It was nothing unusual for him to approach a stranger and ask, "Did you hear about the fire in London? Yes, a shoe factory burned down. 2,000 soles were lost! And it was started by a heel!" Or: "If at first you don't succeed, I do not recommend skydiving for you." And everyone's favourite: "A friend suggested I put horse manure on my strawberries. Tried it. Didn't like it. Went back to whipping cream." He always kept his jokes short. That was because if you did not like the first one, he had another for you.

Matt believed that if you can make a person smile, you will not change the world, but you will change theirs. In September 2010, he retired from the Tillsonburg Library and befriended a student he met in a library correspondence course he had been teaching online since 1995. In October 2011, he married that student, Leni Kraska. Together, they built new lives together, first in Bainsville, Ontario and after 2013, in Tillsonburg. In his retirement, he enjoyed helping people compose their life story, but his

special joy was book repairing. Matt loved to restore books for those who valued them, attracting clients from across Canada.

Matt wanted to recognize the important contribution made by Sue Rodriguez. Some thirty years ago, she failed to win her court case for death with dignity, but she ignited a conversation on that issue that led to our current legislation enabling it. Suffering Canadians owe her a lot. Thank-you so much for all your love and prayers.

*Comments:*

Matt was a community leader par excellence in Tillsonburg for many years. He made numerous contributions that people will long remember. — Lorne Bruce

I only knew Matt for a short time, chiefly through his affiliation with Ex Libris and his membership on the board, but I had come to look forward to his jokes and his comments on library issues of the day. I had the good fortune to meet him in person twice while he was visiting his brother in Lion's Bay (near Vancouver). He was as thoughtful and funny in person as he was on line and gave very good hugs. I will miss him. — Deborah Thomas

Matt contributed so much to Ex Libris Association, with his often amusing, often thoughtful comments on the listserv, was on the Board, and contributed articles and humour to ELAN. He was a warm and thoughtful friend and colleague. — Frances Davidson-Arnott

I too knew Matt for only a short time. After exchanging several e-mails, following some postings on the ELA Listserv, we agreed that we should meet in person and we did so at Toronto Sunnybrook Hospital's coffe shop - of all places - in mid-Sept., 2022. Matt had driven in from Tillsonburg to visit his brother, Ernie, then in a coma as a result of a terrible accident experienced while he was on his motorcycle. Ernie never recovered. In that environment of 'life and death' we found the beginning of our far too brief but very meaningful friendship. — Bernie Katz

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## **Stewart, Christina Duff, 1926-June 1, 2022**

— Contributed by Leslie McGrath, former Senior Department Head, Osborne Collection, Toronto Public Library

Born in Dundee, Scotland, Christina was the daughter of James Duff and Matilda Forbes Harron Stewart. Christina was devoted to books and reading from her earliest years, and family members predicted she was headed for a career in librarianship. Her education was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II; in 1943 she joined the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRENS) and became one of an exclusive team of young women working on code-breaking for the Enigma Project at Bletchley Park, where she worked on Turing's Bombe until 1947. This work required an oath of secrecy which Christina scrupulously observed, never discussing her war work with even closest friends and family until the 1970s when the British Government ended the embargo. Historians estimate this project saved countless lives and shortened the war; Christina relished Churchill's description of the code-breakers as "the golden geese that never cackled."

Christina resumed her studies, and, inspired by Lillian H. Smith's book *The Unreluctant Years*, become an intern in the Boys and Girls House program for children's librarians in 1954. Following this internship Christina remained in Toronto, earning a B.A. at the University of Toronto (1963-67) and an M.A. in 1968 with research on the British literary family known as "The Taylors of Ongar," including

Jane Taylor, author of "Twinkle, twinkle, little star," and Ann Taylor Gilbert, author of the once ubiquitous (and frequently parodied) recitation poem "My Mother." Christina's thesis became a published book: *The Taylors of Ongar: A Bio-Bibliography*, widely consulted by cataloguers, librarians and literary historians. Academic librarianship beckoned, and Christina became Book Selector for Graduate Research in English and Drama at the University of Toronto Libraries in 1968. She chose books with care and discrimination, including rare books for the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, for the next twenty-five years until her retirement in 1992. This was a demanding job to which Christina devoted enormous effort and professional knowledge.

Though much of Christina's time and energy was devoted to work she found time to amass a fine collection of Tayloriana, which she eventually donated to the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books. She also made frequent trips to England to visit her beloved family, and enjoyed books, music and art. Concerts, shows and plays were her delight, especially after retirement, and Christina always had a wide circle of friends, to whom she was a most thoughtful and caring correspondent and visitor. Among Christina's correspondents was Rosemary Sutcliff, who signed many of her personal letters with a distinctive dolphin signature. These, too, Christina kindly donated to the Osborne Collection, in a collection of literary letters.

War service honours came late, including a scroll signed by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown with a commemorative golden flywheel to those who had served at Bletchley Park and Eastcote in 2009, followed by the Bletchley Park Service Medal. With typical modesty Christina kept these private, together with a rare photo of herself in uniform, but in her quiet devotion to duty and passion for excellence in she was herself the exemplar of public service.

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## **Wees, Eleanor, Dec. 1, 1922-July 30, 2021**

— Published in the Ottawa Citizen, July 30, 2021

Eleanor was born Alice Eleanor Belyea in Fredericton, New Brunswick on December 1, 1922 to John Allen Belyea and Bessie Alberta (Harrison) Belyea, both of New Brunswick. Eleanor was a graduate of the University of New Brunswick, receiving her B.A. in 1945, and then a Bachelor of Library Science from the University of Toronto in 1946.

From 1946 to 1953, she was head cataloguer at the University of New Brunswick Library, Fredericton. In 1953, she moved to Ottawa to work at the recently-established National Library of Canada (later Library and Archives Canada). Eleanor and a small group of other librarians and professionals, led by W. Kaye Lamb, were the founders who gave initial shape and direction to the National Library. Between 1953 and 1958 and then from 1964 until her retirement in 1987, Eleanor worked on *Canadiana*, the national bibliography of Canada, and as a cataloguer of books and, later, sound recordings.

She was a long-standing and active member of First Baptist Church, Ottawa, becoming a member shortly after moving to Ottawa and making many lifelong friendships there. During her years as part of the church family, she served on many boards and committees, including the Board of Deacons, and established the church newsletter, *Contact*, in 1973. As a librarian, she was naturally inspired to develop a church library and she served as church librarian into her 90s. Her Christian faith and the fellowship of her church community gave immense meaning to her life.

Ever intellectually active and curious, Eleanor's many interests included reading and poetry. While at

the University of New Brunswick, she was an early member of the Bliss Carman Society, founded in 1940 by Dr. Alfred G. Bailey to animate literary life at U.N.B. and in Fredericton. The Society initially met to discuss and share poetry, and Eleanor, along with Dr. Bailey, Elizabeth Brewster, Frances Firth, Margaret Cunningham, Donald Gammon, and Fred Cogswell, among others, was an active member. The Society established *The Fiddlehead* in 1945, the oldest, continuously published literary magazine in Canada, and Eleanor contributed poetry to its early issues. She continued to occasionally write poetry throughout her life. In addition, she was a pianist, continuing to play into her later 90s, and much interested in classical music, attending the Ottawa Chamberfest for many years.

— From Gerald Parker:

It is a grievous thing to hear of the demise of this great Christian lady and superb librarian. There are few obituaries of former colleagues at the National Library of Canada whom I recall with so much respect and affection. It was a pleasure to be Eleanor's colleague (for my part, as Head of the Music Section, National Library of Canada); her work and help in supervising the library clerks in the section was especially of great value. In addition to all of her excellent qualities and accomplishments, as a lady and as librarian, was her keen discretion in dealing with difficulties of all kinds as they arose. Having Eleanor as a co-worker much facilitated my work and that of the other librarians in the section. She is so dear to the memories of those who worked with her, that any obituary (even the one included here, such a fine and detailed one) cannot begin to convey her sterling human and professional virtues. She was one of the Great Ladies of the National Library and of Library and Archives Canada.

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## **Wheeler, Jean Vafiades, 1940-Oct. 27, 2023**

— published in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, Oct. 26, 2024

On the one year anniversary we remember Jean Vafiades Wheeler, who passed away unexpectedly, after a very brief illness on October 27, 2023, surrounded by her family. Jean was a force of character, tenacious in the face of adversity, thorough with every task, empathetic to others, celebratory and joyous at any given chance. Jean was born in New York City in 1940, and spent her first ten years steeped in its culture before moving to Europe, where she remained through her higher education and marriage to fellow American, Frank (1935-2019). She received her MA from Charles University in Prague, worked as an Assistant Professor of English language and literature, and spoke four languages fluently. In 1970, they immigrated with their young family to Canada, immediately embracing it as home. In her mid-thirties, Jean pursued her passion and obtained an MLS from the University of Toronto, working for many years as a U of T reference librarian and later Acting Head of the SIS library at McGill University. Throughout she was an independent bibliographer, indexer, abstract writer, editor and beloved family proofreader. She was a passionate participant and advocate in educational, community, alumni and professional organizations, most recently receiving the U of T's Arbor Award for her work supporting the Trinity College library. Jean believed in a just society, often sharing concerns with elected representatives - and always sharing her views at the family dinner table. She loved and supported film, theater, art, music, travel, gardens, and of course, books. Above all, Jean cherished her family and close friends. She created and nurtured a home and family full of joy, love and music. Her love of husband, three children, seven grandchildren, and extended family was boundless. We miss her, and will forever hear her laughter.

## Williamson, Nancy Joyce, July 4, 1928-Dec. 3, 2023

— posted on the University of Toronto Faculty of Information website, Dec. 11, 2023

Known as a generous and open-spirited colleague as well as an outstanding scholar, Professor Emerita Nancy Williamson passed away in Toronto on December 3rd. While Professor Williamson retired from what was then the Faculty of Library and Information Science almost 30 years ago in 1994, she would regularly visit her office on the sixth floor of the Bissell Building well into her eighties.

Professor Williamson provided invaluable assistance to junior colleagues and continued to publish regularly on a wide range of topics. Former Dean Wendy Duff recalls Williamson's help as she prepared to teach Records Management for the first time. "Nancy gave me all her materials, which was a life saver," Duff said. "A new faculty member could not have had better support than Nancy."

Professor Williamson is also remembered fondly by the many successful graduates she taught and supervised at both the Master's and Doctoral degree levels.

Before joining what is now the Faculty of Information in 1965, Professor Williamson worked for 15 years as a librarian in Hamilton, Ontario. She earned both her BLS and MLS degrees from U of T and her PhD from Case Western University.

### Comments:

— From Trudy Bodak:

I have very fond memories of Nancy Williamson. Nancy was my cataloguing professor at the University of Toronto Library School. She inspired me to choose cataloguing as my career. I also worked with Nancy on the Ex Libris Biography Project. She always amazed me with her knowledge and her dedication to the library profession. She will be missed.

— From Bernard Katz:

I have good memories of Nancy's classes at U of T, and was grateful for her teaching when I started working at U of Guelph as a cataloger. And it was lovely to meet up with her once more at annual meetings of ELA.

— From Carole Joling:

As convenor of the Canadian FID Secretariat for some time in the 1990's, I remember Ms. Williamson as a longstanding Canadian member of FID (Federation International de Documentation) and being presented with FID's Testimony of Recognition at its 1996 Conference in Graz, Austria. FID had a number of well-established committees and Nancy was for a time Chair of FID's Committee for Classification Research and Knowledge Organization editing its Knowledge Issues Newsletter. An active and committed professional.

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