

LYN DENNISON

Date of Interview: June 13, 2007

Interviewer: Lindsay Haynes

Summary

Lyn Dennison is the daughter of a school librarian who fell in love with academia while working at her college university's library. She was soon on her way to library school and received her Masters in Librarianship from the University of South Carolina. Her first job was at the East Carolina School of Medicine Library where she worked in reference and cataloging. She then moved to the Medical College of Georgia three years later and became the Collection Development Librarian. Soon after accepting this position, she transitioned back into reference and became the Head of Reference and remained so for 20 years. Her last five years at MCG were in the capacity of Assistant Director, but she still "kept her little pinky finger in Reference."

She attended many of the annual meetings and thought it was very interesting that there were several people named Tom who were library Directors, "Tom Basler, Tom Lange, Tom Williams, Tom Singarella, T. Scott Plutchak, whose first name is Thomas, and then Emory's library Director, Carol Burns whose husband was also named Tom." Another very memorable moment for her was when Henry Lemkau, who was the Director at Miami, "led the Peabody ducks off the elevator into the fountain" at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis where the meeting was being held. Lyn has held office positions and was on several committees within the chapter. She was the Newsletter Editor from 1989-1990. She also served on the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, the Hospitality and Program Committees, and was also in charge of the Contributed Papers sessions at the meeting in Coral Gables.

Lyn Dennison named Joann Bell, Tom Basler, Camilla Reid, Holly Buchanan, Tamara Lee, and "a lot of her Georgia colleagues" for contributing to her professional career development. She also gave mention to Lucretia McClure, Ada Seltzer, and Mark Hodges. Computers were the biggest change in the medical library profession during her career, but, she pointed out that her generation helped to "usher in the computer age." She advised new medical librarians entering the profession that they were going to "get to work with smart, motivated people and exciting and changing environments, so just enjoy the ride."

For a copy of the full transcript, contact the SC/MLA Archivist.

Sylvia McAphee
November 30, 2007