

ANN HODGE MACOMBER

Date of Interview: October 10, 1993

Interviewer: Susan E. Woods

Summary

Ann Hodge Macomber started her medical library career in 1949 at Louisiana State University (LSU) in New Orleans and assumed many roles there, including reference librarian, acquisitions librarian and Associate Director. Briefly she left LSU to work at Emory University during the 1950s. After over thirty combined years of service at LSU, Ann retired in 1987.

Ann was actively involved in the early days of the Southern Group. She presented at one of the first meetings in January 1953 in Birmingham and went on to become Chair of the group in the 1960s. Even though she opposed the split of the Group into the South Central Chapter and the Southern Chapter, Ann maintained close ties with both chapters.

Fond memories of those early meetings come readily. She recollects the formality of the meetings when “all the ladies wore gloves and some wore hats” and when attendance was small: “the opportunity to meet with people and to know them on a one-on-one basis was invaluable.” Proudly, she remembers the 1970 national Medical Library Association meeting, which LSU hosted, and the frugal efforts that the Planning Committee made to ensure that the convention would be profitable for the organization. She even went so far as to ride “in a pick up truck with maintenance men from LSU and got trees and plants for decoration.” Although, she believes in technology and progress, Ann misses the days when “chips meant wood and hardware meant hammers and nails.”

Her advice to new medical librarians is to take time out from all the meetings, continuing education courses, and committee work to “have social intercourse with your colleagues and peers. Share thoughts about what’s going on in your libraries. That’s how you grow.”

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

Carla M. Clark
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