

MARY FRAN PROTTSMAN

Date of Interview: November 15, 2007

Interviewer: Mary Virginia Taylor

Summary

Mary Fran Prottzman's initial interest in librarianship was due to her mother, who was a junior high school librarian. Her grandfather, a country physician, sparked her interest in medicine. After majoring in Biology at the University of Alabama, she enrolled in Emory's medical librarianship program.

Mary Fran began her career as a serials librarian at the University of Arkansas Health Sciences Center in Little Rock. She became a reference librarian there a year later. When she and her husband moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, she eventually accepted a position as Director of the VA Hospital library there, where she served as Department Chief. Later, she worked at the VA Hospital in Augusta, Georgia. Mary Fran was finally able to move back home when an Army library in Fort Rucker, Alabama, needed a librarian. She served in that position for 18 years, during which time she was involved in a variety of interesting projects with the school of aviation medicine at Fort Rucker. When that library closed, she took a job for one year at the VA hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. Since her retirement, Mary Fran has been working as Assistant Director of the AHEC Library at the Carolinas Health Care System in Charlotte, N.C.

When she was in library school, Mary Fran was introduced to the Southern Chapter by none other than that "grand old lady of the Southern Chapter," Miriam Libby. She has fond memories of fun meetings, such as the one in New Orleans when several librarians performed Elvis impersonations. Throughout her career, she remained active in the Southern Chapter, serving as Chair of the Hospital Libraries section as well as Chair of the Chapter, Program Chair, and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

About the Southern Chapter, Mary Fran says, "I think there's an underlying graciousness and an enjoyment of one another that I have not found in many chapters."

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

Laura Kane
September 10, 2008