

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA MARGARET E. MONROE

Professor Emerita Margaret E. Monroe died on December 17, 2004 at Attic Angel Place in Middleton, Wisconsin, at the age of 90. She was born May 21, 1914 in New York City to Ralph B. and Ruth C. Monroe.

After earning bachelor of arts and bachelor of library science degrees from New York State College for Teachers at Albany, Margaret pursued graduate work at Columbia University. She took an M.A. degree in English in 1939 and a doctorate in library science in 1962. She practiced as a librarian from 1939 to 1954. She felt that her work as a reader's adviser at the New York Public Library was especially important to her later service as an educator. She was on the faculty of Rutgers University from 1954 to 1963.

Margaret joined the faculty of the Wisconsin Library School (now the School of Library and Information Studies) as professor and director in 1963. When she left her administrative role in 1970 for full-time teaching and scholarship, College of Letters and Science Dean Stephen C. Kleene noted that during her directorship the school had more than doubled in faculty, student body size, and offerings of courses and services. Under her leadership, the faculty of the school established doctoral and post-masters certificate programs, and provided teaching, research, and service programs that brought the school national and international recognition.

Most of all, Margaret was a teacher. She was a master in the classroom, whether delivering a crisply-honed lecture or leading a discussion that produced learning and insights that made her students surprised and delighted with themselves. Margaret's students went on to hold important positions throughout the profession of librarianship as administrators, educators, and professional leaders. Her former students also remember her as a wise and supportive adviser and mentor, both during their studies and throughout their careers.

Margaret taught not only the students in her classes, but the professions of librarianship and adult education as a whole. She was a genius at planning and contributing to institutes and conference programs. Participants used insights from these meetings to improve services and education at their own institutions. Her institute and conference papers have been widely cited and have been influential in the development of the field of library public services.

Scholarship and writing were an important part of Margaret's life and legacy. She authored four books and a host of research reports and journal articles. Her book, *Library Adult Education, the Biography of an Idea*, was a germinal work in the field. One of her gifts was the capacity to recognize societal and professional trends and needs and to articulate imperatives and strategies for libraries and library educators to respond to them. She had the ability to identify the best practices and programs in library and information services and then to help others understand, replicate, and improve such practice. She did this by developing and explicating conceptual frameworks, principles, and models that would inform teaching, learning, research, and practice in the field.

Throughout her career, Margaret served in professional leadership roles in New Jersey, Wisconsin, and at the national level. She was a firm believer in the Wisconsin Idea and was tireless in her efforts to keep the Library School involved in the improvement of library services throughout the state and beyond. She served as president of the American Association of Library Schools and she held key positions in the

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American Library Association (ALA), including president of its Adult Services Division and chair of its Committee on Accreditation. Her professional colleagues honored her for her outstanding service to the profession, for example with ALA's Beta Phi Mu Award for Distinguished Contribution to Education for Librarianship. In 1985 the ALA Reference and Adult Services Division established an annual award in tribute to her contributions to the field of library services to adults. At the time of her retirement, she was honored with a festschrift: *The Service Imperative for Libraries: Essays in Honor of Margaret E. Monroe*.

After her retirement from the faculty in 1981, Margaret continued to provide leadership in the Madison community. She served on the board of the Madison Senior Center, where she developed and conducted a two-year program, "The Challenge of our Aging Society." She served for several years on the Dane County Commission on Aging and was active in the League of Women Voters. In 1992 she was named one of Madison's Women of Distinction.

Margaret is survived by her sisters-in-law Elizabeth Monroe of North Carolina and Cara H. Monroe of California, cousins, nieces, and many cherished friends.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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