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

ON THE DEATH OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITA H. JEAN ROWLEY

H. Jean Werderitsch Rowley, the retired chief of cataloging for UW-Madison libraries, passed away on April 22, 2010 at the age of 83.

Jean was born in Milwaukee on March 23, 1927. She grew up and attended schools in southwestern Wisconsin and in Poughkeepsie, New York. Jean earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and German in 1948 and a Master of Arts degree in library science in 1951 from UW-Madison.

During her time in the UW Library School, she worked for the UW Library, which then shared space with the Wisconsin Historical Society building. Following her graduate work, she served as an Army librarian in France and Germany for three years. Upon her return to the U.S., she worked for two semesters at the Iowa State College Library in Ames. She returned to Madison in 1955 and began eight years as base librarian with the Air Force, serving at three bases in the U.S. After leaving the Air Force, she married L. Ben Rowley shortly before she rejoined UW in 1963 as a serials cataloger in Memorial Library. In 1973 she was appointed chief of cataloging.

Her career in cataloging spanned the progression from individually typed 3"x5" catalog cards on manual typewriters to cards typed by IBM Selectric typewriters driven by punched tapes, to the early days of cooperative cataloging through shared on-line cataloging, and finally to the early days of MadCat, the online catalog for the UW-Madison campus. She also oversaw the transition to and the training of staff on new national cataloging rules and standards (Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, second edition; most commonly known as AACR2), which were in place until just this year when the national rules changed again.

Jean retired in 1990 from the UW General Library System, after 27 years as a highly esteemed university librarian.

In retirement, Jean was an active volunteer, translating books into Braille and other services to the blind, as well as regularly delivering meals on wheels for Independent Living.

With her husband, she enjoyed road trips in their truck and fifth-wheel camper. Jean traveled on all seven continents, particularly enjoying mountains, forests and ice fields. She supported the arts and especially valued subscription concerts at Chicago's Lyric Opera. Throughout her life she was devoted to the welfare of wild animals and to the pet cats of friends and of her own.

Jean's husband and her parents, George and Ethel (Smith) Werderitsch, predeceased her. She is fondly remembered by many friends and colleagues.

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