

UC Berkeley

The 150 Women Project - Holding Series

Title

Women of the Library

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2083k53h>

Author

Humphreys, Sheila

Publication Date

2023-11-09

Women of the Library

by Sheila Humphreys



Doe Library, 1924. (The Bancroft Library, Days of Cal photo collection, UARC Num.: 9:27b)

The 150W History Project initiated this site, a modest beginning, to honor the legacy of women librarians since the library was founded in 1869. Branch librarians, reference librarians, acquisitions staff, archivists, oral historians, curators, information specialists, and many others support major research and instructional activities for Berkeley students and scholars worldwide. They connect students, faculty, staff, and visiting scholars to a wealth of resources. From rare historical archives to digital collections, these professionals have pioneered open access for all scholars. Berkeley women librarians have been recognized with a variety of local, state and national awards, including the Distinguished Librarian Award for their service. See the entire list of recipients here: <https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/Staff/lauc/dla/recipients.html>.



Fay M. Blake (1920–2011)
Advocate for Equity and Inclusion

Fay M. Blake, former faculty member of the UC Berkeley School of Librarianship and School of Library & Information Studies, has died. She was 90.

Fay M. Blake was born September 15, 1920, in Manhattan, New York. She had a lifelong love of books; one of her earliest memories was sneaking a book out of the New York Public Library as a child, since she had already checked out the maximum number allowed to children and couldn't bear to wait all weekend to read the next one.

Blake attended Hunter College, studied librarianship at the University of Southern California, and earned her Ph.D. in English at UCLA. She served on the faculty of the Berkeley library school from 1971 to 1984. At Berkeley, Blake was passionate about the inclusion of marginalized groups; she established new courses on public libraries and literacy and on popular culture; she also founded the school's field studies program, for library students to work with underserved populations. For years, Blake supervised the popular undergraduate course Bibliography I.

Blake helped organize the Librarians Association of the University of California (LAUC), UC's system wide library association, was appointed to the California State Library Commission by Governor Jerry Brown, and was a longtime volunteer at the Berkeley Public Library. She was the author of *The Strike in the American Novel* (1972) and *Verbis Non Factis: Words Meant to Influence Political Choices in the United States, 1800-1980* (1995, along with her husband, H. Morton Newman).

Source: Berkeley School of Information. "Fay M. Blake (1920–2011)." July 28, 2011.



Willa Klug Baum (1926-2006)

Director of the Regional Oral History Office & Oral Historian

Born in Chicago on October 4, 1926, Willa Baum was unconventionally educated in Germany, Switzerland, and New York in the 1930s and 1940s before settling in Ramona, California for high school. She was a star student at Whittier College. Her youthful interests and job experiences were diverse—skiing, folk dancing, playing piano and trombone, reading history, working as a social reporter on a local newspaper, and fruit picking. In 1947, before enrolling in the master's program at Mills College, Willa hitchhiked across the country. The following year, she enrolled at Berkeley as a graduate student in U.S. history (one of only two women in the program at the time).

Baum was present at the founding of UC Berkeley's Oral History Center (at that time called the Regional Oral History Office, or ROHO) in 1954, the second university program in oral history in the country, and served as its director for forty-three years until her retirement in 2000. She was a pioneer in the development of oral history as research methodology and expert on oral history methods, processing, uses, and theoretical approaches. As a founding member and leader in the Oral History Association, she mentored countless community historians as well as Berkeley faculty and students. Her book, *Oral History for the Local Historical Society*, was first published in 1969 and is still recommended for beginners to the field. The procedures and practices she established at ROHO on matters from legal releases to nuances of transcribing and editing interviews to ethical treatment of interviewees have provided models for programs across the country.

The tangible scholarly impact Baum created is best exemplified by the oral history collection built at ROHO—more than 1,600 oral history interviews, in 800 repositories worldwide (many of them now accessible via Internet). She fostered ROHO's projects in a diversity of topics of central importance to the history of California and the West, often before they became

established subject areas in academia: environmental history, women in politics, the disability rights movement as examples. Baum also worked with the Class of 1931 to establish an endowment fund for oral histories with distinguished alumni, entitled "The University of California: Source of Community Leaders." In recognition of her many contributions, Baum received the Berkeley citation, the University's highest honor, and The Bancroft Library's Hubert Howe Bancroft Award.

By Ann Lage, former Associate Director of the Bancroft Library's Regional Oral History Office



Edith Margaret Coulter (1880-1963)
Professor and Head of the Reference Department

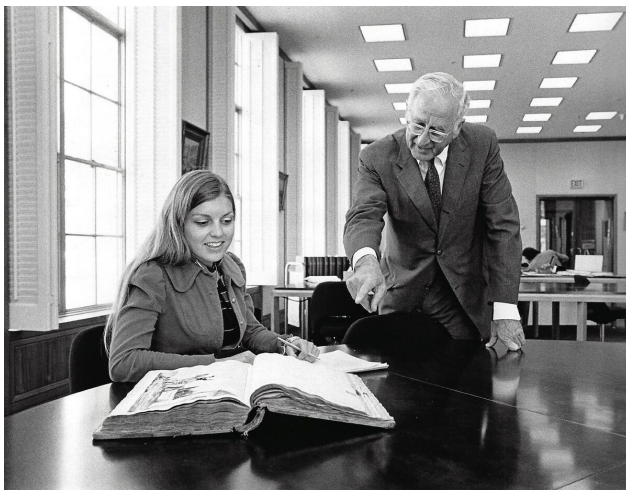
Edith Margaret Coulter was born in Salinas on October 30, 1880 to William Storey Coulter of Delaware County, NY and Elizabeth Mabel Coulter of Lilliesleaf, Scotland. Her interest in libraries and history developed while pursuing a Bachelor of Arts at Stanford University. After graduating in 1905, she returned to higher education for a Bachelor of Library Science from New York Library School at Albany. Coulter worked briefly in the Berkeley Public Library and became a member of the Stanford University Library Staff until 1911. That same year, she joined the University of California's library staff and dedicated the next fifty-two years of her life as an esteemed community member.

From Senior Assistant Librarian to Head of the Reference Department, Coulter continued to shape librarianship education as lecturer in the newly established Department of Librarianship in 1918. While working in 1924, Coulter earned a Master of Arts in history and was named assistant professor. Her thesis was published in 1927 and remained relevant: *Guide to Historical Bibliographies: A Critical and Systematic Bibliography for Advanced Students*.

After the department became the graduate School of Librarianship, Coulter accepted a role as a full-time faculty member. She was promoted to associate professor in 1929 and full professor in 1946, retiring as Emeritus Professor of Librarianship in 1949. During these years, she was active in various professional organizations. For the Book Club of California, she served on the Board of Directors for ten years and chaired its Publications Committee for seven years. The Alumni Association of the School of Librarianship established and endowed the Coulter Lecture, an annual conference of the California Library Association, for her contributions to the field. In 1960, Mills College conferred on her the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. The following year, she was awarded the Isadore Gilbert Mudge Citation for Reference Librarianship by the American Library Association in 1961.

In addition to advancing the scholarship of California history, Coulter was a beloved instructor and advocate of women's professional advancement at Berkeley. She was a charter member of the Women's Faculty Club and treasurer of the Building Committee for many years. Her influence amongst students extended beyond the classroom, with many returning for advanced degrees after Coulter impressed the importance of reference work in the service of scholarship. Coulter passed away on January 27, 1963. To quote a former student, "the illumination of her learning" lives on through the legacy she left behind.

By Anne E. Markley, George P. Hammond, Fredric J. Mosher, and Donald Coney from *University of California In Memoriam, April 1964: Edith Margaret Coulter*



Suzanne Holliday Calpestri, MLIS '71

With James D. Hart, Bancroft Director; First Recipient of the John H. Rowe Endowed Chair

Suzanne Holliday Calpestri (UCB BA Sociology 1970; UCB MLIS 1971) is the first recipient of the John H. Rowe Endowed Chair and Director of the George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library. She began her 40-year career as an academic librarian when Bancroft Library Director James D. Hart hired her as a reference librarian, a position she held for more than a decade.

Following a librarywide Public Service internship, she became Head of the Cooperative Services Department in the late 1970's and held leadership positions in the development of reference services and resource sharing programs for emerging digital based networked library consortia including UC systemwide (Salmon Plan 1978), statewide (California Multi-type Library Network), national/international (RLIN and OCLC). With her colleague, Anne Lipow, she was at the forefront of programs that shaped digital information services and virtual reference services. From 1994 until her retirement (with emeritus status) in 2008, she served as Director of the George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library where she was the first recipient of the John H. Rowe endowed chair, an honor which provided discretionary funding and allowed her to develop AnthroHub, a web accessible comprehensive record of the scholarly output of the Berkeley Department of Anthropology from 1896-2007 and a demonstration social science open access project.

Calpestri was an early advocate for open access publishing. She served on the scholarly communications team at Berkeley which became Berkeley Research Impact Initiative (BRII). In 2001 she co-founded the American Anthropological Association's (AAA) Scholarly Communications Interest group as a means of creating a platform for open access discussions in the discipline. In 2003 she was appointed by the AAA President to lead the design and development of Anthrosource, the AAA digital research environment and publications program. At the invitation of the American Council of Learned Societies, in 2004 she provided formal public testimony about the core functions vital for a digital infrastructure to support anthropological research.

In retirement Calpestri maintains her connection to the UCB Library as a member of the Friends of The Bancroft Library. She has also served on the Berkeley Public Library Foundation Board.



May Dornin, BA'21 (1897-1992)
University Archivist (1946-1964)

May Dornin, a native San Franciscan, attended UCB, receiving a master's degree in history in 1922 for her thesis *The Emigrant Trails into California*. After joining the library staff, mainly in the Catalog Department, she worked with the first Librarian in 1875 and first University Archivist, Joseph Cummings Rowell. Rowell retired as Librarian in 1919, but continued on as University Archivist until 1938. May Dornin oversaw the collection and was finally appointed University Archivist herself in 1946, a position she held until 1964. She was interviewed by the Oral History Office in 1976, and she participated in two other oral history interviews, one on the Robert Gordon Sproul years as President of the University, and one on the history of the Women's Faculty Club, where she resided for many years. After her retirement, she joined the staff of the Centennial Publications Office, formed to mark the centennial of the university in 1968. She coauthored, with Albert Pickerell, *The University of California: a pictorial history*, and contributed many articles on Berkeley to *The Centennial Record of the University of California*, both published by the university in 1968.



Sheila T. Dowd (1925-2015)
Inaugural Map Librarian

Sheila Dowd began her 35-year career at the UC Berkeley Library in 1953 after serving as a librarian for two years for the U.S. Army in Heidelberg, Germany and two more years with the U.S. Information Service in Marseille, France. For two decades Dowd developed Berkeley's map collection; her passion for maps would lead to her being forever remembered as the "Mother of WAML, the Western Association of Map Libraries."

In 1974 Dowd was named Assistant University Librarian of the Department of Collection Development and Reference Services. During her tenure as head of collections she shaped the library's overall collections, oversaw 65 librarians and built a national reputation for the

collection. In a WAML Newsletter (March 2015) memorial tribute by Kathy Rankin, the author recalled that “Sheila’s intelligence, dedication, and humor made her a gifted leader. She embraced the chance to serve the world’s best researchers by building a collection that met their needs. Her national reputation encompassed roles in American Librarian Association, Association of Research Libraries, and the Research Libraries Groups.” When Sheila Dowd retired in 1988 she was awarded the university’s highest honor, the Berkeley citation, for distinguished service.

By Dana Gordon, Library Gifts Officer



Eliza Atkins Gleason, MLIS '36 (1909-2009)
Scholar of Segregation in Public Libraries

Pioneering Berkeley alumna Eliza Atkins Gleason (M.A. '36) was the first African American to earn a doctorate in library science. At the height of the Great Depression, in 1936, a young black woman named Eliza Valeria Atkins completed her M.A. in Library Science at the University of California, Berkeley. She had already demonstrated her commitment to learning and to the library profession by earning two bachelor's degrees, one at Fisk University and the other, in library science, at the University of Illinois. Additionally, she had held positions as an assistant librarian and as head of the library at the Municipal College for Negroes in Louisville, Kentucky. As she readied herself to return to the profession with her master's degree, she could not have foreseen that her work would be widely influential and that her career would be the subject of entries published in the World Encyclopedia of Library and Information Services, Notable Black American Women, the Historical Dictionary of Librarianship, and others, including, of course, Wikipedia.

In the late 1930s, she worked on her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, where in 1940 she became the first African American to earn a doctorate in library science. One of her mentors there, Carleton B. Joeckel, had worked from 1914 to 1927 as director of the Berkeley Public Library, overseeing a significant increase in book circulation and the creation of new branches. Joeckel also taught the public library administration course offered by UC Berkeley's Department of Library Science. His dissertation, completed at Chicago in 1934, was published by the University of Chicago Press as *The Government of the American Public Library* in 1935, the year he joined the University of Chicago Graduate Library School faculty. Although Joeckel's and Atkins's time in Berkeley did not overlap, their familiarity with the city and the university gave them something in common beyond their research interests. Under his guidance, Eliza Atkins completed her dissertation, "The Government and Administration of Public Library Service to Negroes in the South," in 1940.

In 1940, Gleason boldly suggested that segregated Southern towns should fund a single library serving all equally. The next year, the University of Chicago Press published her dissertation as a book, titled *The Southern Negro and the Public Library*, under her married name, Eliza Atkins Gleason. Her research documented the existence of many racially segregated southern public libraries. Gleason noted pointedly that cities and towns in the South did not have the financial means to create two separate systems that were equal in terms of facilities, staff, and collections. She suggested that the better alternative was to fund a single library serving all equally. Joeckel endorsed the work with a blurb on the inside front flap of the book jacket: "Accurate and detailed in its factual basis, and carefully objective in its method of treatment, the study breaks new ground with extensive information concerning the dual system of service . . ." The book was widely and positively reviewed and, two decades before passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, marked an early turning point in how some whites thought about public libraries and the people they served.

From Chicago, Gleason went to Atlanta University where she served as Dean of the newly established School of Library Service, designed to graduate African American students who would serve in the public libraries Gleason had studied as well as in academic libraries at southern black colleges and universities and elsewhere. After World War II ended, Gleason left Atlanta to join her husband, a physician, in Chicago. There she raised a daughter — who went on to become a college professor — and continued to work in the library field, eventually becoming the first African American to serve on the Council of the American Library Association. In recognition of Gleason's profound effect on library science education and on libraries, the Library History Round Table of the American Library Association named its periodic award for the best book in library history after her.

Born in North Carolina, educated in Nashville, Urbana-Champaign, Berkeley, and Chicago, and employed in racially segregated institutions, Gleason navigated geographic, educational, and

professional boundaries even as they shifted with the times. Her thinking and her doing neither started nor ended at the University of California, but Berkeley provided a West Coast experience that likely broadened her southern and midwestern perspectives even as she no doubt brought a unique perspective to the school. Gleason was one of the few librarians and library-science educators of her generation who understood the complexities of race hidden in the popular and professional rhetoric touting equal access to information and reading material. An influential figure in librarianship's history, Gleason remains relevant as libraries and information schools identify and address continuing information injustices.

By Cheryl Knott, professor in the School of Information at the University of Arizona



Dorothy D. Gregor
Visionary of Library Automation

Dorothy D. Gregor (1939 -) was the first, and so far in 2021, the only woman to be appointed as University Librarian at the University of California, Berkeley. Gregor's 26-year career in librarianship included positions as university librarian at UC San Diego; chief of the Shared Cataloging Division of Processing Services at the Library of Congress; associate university librarian for technical services and head of the Serials Department at UC Berkeley; and reference librarian at the University of Hawaii. Gregor's influence extended well beyond the Berkeley campus. She was a member of the both the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors of the Center for Research Libraries.

Gregor graduated from Occidental College in 1961. She earned a Master of Arts, University Hawaii, 1963, and a Master of Library Science, University Texas, in 1968, Gregor was Certified in Library Management by the University of California, Berkeley, in 1976.

For her distinguished service from 1968 to her retirement in 1994, Gregor received the 1994 Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries. This national award recognizes outstanding accomplishments of an academic librarian who has worked in the areas of library automation or library management, and has made contributions towards the improvement of library services, or to library development or research. Willis Hubbard, Award Chair, commented “Choosing Dorothy Gregor to receive this prestigious award reflects her visions of automated services in libraries. She is recognized for her work in cataloging simplification, advocacy of bibliographic standards, and her early work with machine-readable cataloging. Her pioneering efforts to provide information to all users of a library through innovative uses of technology are consistent with the leadership of Hugh Atkinson.”



Susana Hinojosa, MLIS
Government documents specialist

Susana Hinojosa started working at the library October 4, 1971, and she retired October 31, 2009. Hinojosa was recruited by UC, where she worked in the Moffitt Undergraduate Library and Reference Department before moving to Government Documents. As a documents selector, Hinojosa was responsible for building the library’s collection of documents published by U.S. state, Latin American, and Iberian governments. As a specialist in government information, she consulted with students and faculty on all areas involving government documents, including U.S. Federal and international organizations such as the United Nations and World Trade Organization.

In addition to her work in the library, Hinojosa taught a class "Introduction to the University from a Chicano/Latino Perspective" for incoming Latino students. She was past president of REFORMA (National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking) and a member of the Latino Advisory Committee for the Oakland

Museum of California. Hinojosa was particularly concerned with the low numbers of Latino librarians in academic libraries. Hinojosa explained: "We're needed-the perspective, the experience, the language skills we bring. It's good for Latinos and for libraries."

Hinojosa said she recommends academic librarianship to those who like the mental and social stimulation provided by an academic environment, are interested in working with students, and enjoy research.



Elizabeth Huff (1912-1988)

Founding librarian of UC Berkeley's East Asian Library (1947-1968)

Elizabeth Huff worked in the East Asian Library for two decades, beginning in 1947. She moved from Massachusetts to California to become the founding librarian of the East Asian collection, first unifying Berkeley's scattered East Asian collections and then building them into the foremost East Asian library in the United States. Until her retirement in 1968, she vigorously expanded the collections through her knowledgeable allocation of grants and donations. Huff had studied Asian languages and art at Mills College and at Radcliffe. She had been studying in China when the Japanese invaded, and she was interned in a prison camp during the Pacific War. After the war, she returned to her studies at Harvard. At Berkeley, she assiduously cultivated collectors, sellers, and potential donors of Asian works in all parts of the world. In addition to assembling the most formidable American collection of East Asian texts, Huff used her background in Asian art to create a world-class collection of publications on Chinese and Japanese art at Berkeley. Huff was one of the university's great institution builders, who made important connections with donors and scholars throughout East Asia, bringing Berkeley into international prominence.



Sally Smith Hughes
Academic Specialist in History of Science

Sally Smith Hughes, Ph.D., is a retired Academic Specialist in History of Science in the Regional Oral History Office at The Bancroft Library. She began work at the Bancroft Library in 1978, and her research interest included the history of recent biological science and its commercialization. Her main focus for over a decade has been on the biotechnology industry in California and its interrelationships with basic science at Stanford, the University of California, San Francisco, and the University of California, Berkeley. She has conducted over 150 in-depth, archival quality oral histories, with subjects ranging from the AIDS epidemic to medical physics to virology, for the Program in Bioscience and Biotechnology Studies.

Hughes is the author of *The Virus: A History of the Concept* (Heinemann, 1977) and "[Making Dollars Out of DNA: The First Major Patent in Biotechnology and the Commercialization of Molecular Biology, 1974–1980](#)". She has also recently published a book on the earliest years of Genentech, titled "Genentech: The Beginnings of Biotech."



Anne Grodzins Lipow, MLIS '60 (1935-2004)
Innovative Librarian and Advocate

Anne G. Lipow was an innovative member of the UC Berkeley Library staff from 1961 to 1991. During those 30 years, Anne worked in the Library's acquisition, systems and cooperative departments often pioneering new ways of approaching librarianship. In 1982, Anne was appointed to the Library Education Office as the director for Library Instructional Service. Anne was instrumental in making Berkeley's Library a national leader during the 1970's and 1980's. She was a significant contributor in creating the Baker document delivery system and also helped found the Berkeley/Stanford Cooperative Program.

When Lipow retired from Cal in 1991 she was awarded emeritus status; this was the first time this honor was awarded to a staff member. After retiring she founded Library Solutions Institute and Press, a consulting business and publisher that taught librarians how to use the Internet. Library Solutions Institute and Press published dozens of titles relating to libraries, technology, and new strategies for serving library users. Various workshops were also held around the world regarding these topics. Anne Lipow's publications on the changing nature of reference work in libraries was very influential and in 1994, she was awarded the Isadore Gilbert Mudge Award for distinguished contribution to reference librarianship.

By Dana Gordon, Library Gifts Officer, UC Berkeley



Miriam Matthews, BA '27 (1905-2003)
California's first credentialed Black librarian

Miriam Matthews was born in Pensacola, Florida and at the age of two her father and mother made the decision to move to California. She graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1922 and then spent two years at the University of California, Southern Branch (Los Angeles). She then transferred to Berkeley where she joined the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority started by Vivian Osborne. At Berkeley, Matthews earned her Bachelor's degree in Spanish in 1926, and was

elected to the Spanish honorary society Sigma Delta Pi, following in the footsteps of Louise Alone Thompson. She earned her certificate in Library Science in 1927, becoming the first credentialed African American librarian in the state of California and the first hired by the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL).

During this time, Matthews stayed connected with the Deltas, succeeding Vivian Osborne as the second Regional Director of the Sorority's "Farwest" region from 1929-1930. When she realized how few resources LAPL held on Black history, she began collecting materials on the subject, which she shared with librarians, researchers, and other users. She also spearheaded efforts in 1929 to establish "Negro History Week" in Los Angeles which then became "Negro History Month. From 1949 until her retirement in 1960, she served as regional librarian for LAPL, supervising twelve branch libraries in LAPL's South Central region.

She also served as both a member and chair of CLA's intellectual freedom committee during the late 1940s. In 1977, she was appointed to the California Heritage Preservation Commission, where she led efforts to identify important Black institutions. The Los Angeles Historical Society established an annual Miriam Matthews Award in recognition of her work, and in 2004, the Hyde Park branch of LAPL was renamed for her.

By Gia White & the California Library Association, "California Library Hall of Fame: Miriam Matthews (1905-2003)"

Elizabeth "Betty" Pritchett (1911-2000)

Master Humanities Librarian

Born in Kennebunk, Maine in 1911, Elizabeth "Betty" Pritchett became a scholar and art historian. She graduated from Radcliffe College and New York University, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Art History and Classics before earning a Master's degree in Art History. Prior to working in the Doe Library, she was a fellow at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library in Washington D.C. and a research assistant to the renowned paleographer E. A. Lowe at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. Pritchett traveled in Europe extensively, spending several years in Athens, first researching in its museums and later accompanying her husband of fifty-eight years, Berkeley Classics Professor W. Kendrick Pritchett, on his studies.

She contributed to the Library community from 1949 until her death. On Staff Appreciation Day in 1995, the campus honored Pritchett for over forty years of service. She was a member of various incarnations of the General Reference Service, including her work in the 1960s for the Humanities Bibliographical Division, which continued the special collection development of the Humanities Reference Service. Pritchett worked to build the Major Authors Collection in Graduate Services and, in her later years, with the Area Studies group. Staff may remember her as the person who weekly sorted the Library of Congress proof slips.

On March 13th, 2000, at 89, Elizabeth Dow Pritchett passed away. Honest, unpretentious, and gentle, she was able to see to the heart and speak as a friend. She was a person who would share what she was currently reading, a composer she had discovered, or an insight developed from the vantage point of her experience. Oftentimes more concerned about others than herself, she made the world a warmer place.

Excerpt from CU News. "Remembering Elizabeth "Betty" Pritchett," Vol. 56. No. 14. April 6, 2000.



Suzanne Bassett Riess
Oral Historian

With a degree from Goucher College, experience as a news and feature reporter, and graduate work in Art History at Berkeley, Suzanne Bassett Riess began her career in the Bancroft Library's Regional Cultural History Program—later Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) and now Oral History Center—in 1959. She conducted 137 oral histories and is recognized as the interviewer who built the oral history cultural arts portfolio, with the early support of University Librarian Donald Coney, and Bancroft Library's James D. Hart, and Willa Klug Baum, the always encouraging pioneering director. Riess widened the office's original scope with interviews in photography, journalism, publishing, social history, anthropology, architecture, landscape architecture, horticulture, art making, music, and religion and the arts.

The first interview in 1960 by then 24-year old Suzanne was with the retiring San Francisco Museum of Modern Art founding director Grace McCann Morley. Later that year she began interviews with photographer Dorothea Lange, who was ill and viewing the end of life. What she learned from that frequently cited Lange interview about doing oral history, and the importance of trust and access, were essential early lessons. From the beginning her interviews were rich life stories, well-researched and also keenly intuitive, always introduced by her essential scene-setting interview histories and often illustrated with her photographic portraits. The range

in length of Riess's many oral histories was determined by whether they were designed as part of a multi-interviewee structure or were to be a stand-alone biographical history. It is the researched one to one engagement with an interviewee that sets all oral history aside as a discipline. Interviews could be 20 hours of tape-recorded meetings on a weekly basis, but all were followed by close work verifying the transcript, light editing, and reviewing with the interviewee.

It had long been felt that the Regional Oral History Office needed a catalogue that would reflect and showcase its work and would also encourage acquisition and use of a resource which was up until then primarily in the collection of the Bancroft Library. This challenge, which became a major organizational effort, was undertaken by Riess. Acknowledging the Bancroft Library's commitment to fine printing she worked with a local press to publish two successive catalogues covering 1954-1998. Quaint now in a time of search engines, those catalogues parallel the changing spectrum of technologies of oral history. From early reel-to-reel tape recordings made on massive machines, to the 2003 virtuosic videographed oral history of conceptual artist David Ireland, Riess documented for the Bancroft Library the richness of Bay Area arts and academics. Since retirement she has completed individual commissions in art, urban planning, the performing arts, and family history, all of which have been donated to the collection.



Professor Elaine C. Tennant
First Woman to Lead Bancroft Library

Elaine Tennant became the first woman to direct The Bancroft Library in 2011 and is slated to retire from that position this year. She graduated from Stanford in 1970. Tennant was appointed to the Berkeley faculty in 1977, having earned her PhD at Harvard in Germanic Languages and Literatures. She is Professor in the Departments of German and Scandinavian and affiliated with the Program in Medieval Studies, specializing in medieval and early modern German literature. She will continue as Professor of the Graduate School. Tennant has served the University in many capacities, taking leadership roles in the Academic Senate, the College of Letters and

Science, and on countless committees. She served three times as Chair of the Department of Scandinavian and Program in Celtic Studies, from 1989-92, in 1995, and from 2001-04. The accomplishments of her decade-long tenure as director of Bancroft include her strong support of the curatorial effort to document the histories and current experiences of many cultural communities and social groups in the American West, Mexico, and Central America. She encouraged a focus on materials produced by and for the members of these groups. Tennant also increased emphasis on women in the collections and activities of Bancroft, acquiring rare books and other historical and contemporary materials by and about women and establishing the Women Leaders at Berkeley Fund. Many significant women's oral histories and archives, including those of U. S. Senator Barbara Boxer and California Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird, were added during her tenure.

Elaine Tennant opened Bancroft's doors to new audiences by organizing the first open houses that turned the library into a museum for a day and invited in the public, as well as the campus community, to experience Bancroft treasures firsthand. She supported a series of Bancroft Gallery exhibitions that showcased the contributions of individual Western communities and their intersections with each other in California.

As director, Tennant led Bancroft fundraising activities that resulted in more \$32 million in financial gifts (including grants and gifts-in-kind the total is closer to \$48 million). The gifts include significant endowments to support the Program in Western Americana, the Mark Twain Papers & Project, and the Oral History Center. There have also been significant capital improvements, such as the creation of the state-of-the-art Logan Seminar Room, and the installation of more than \$1 million in new compact shelving to greatly increase on-site storage capacity at Bancroft.

Throughout her career Professor Tennant has brought her students to Bancroft. "It's a point of pride with me not to let the classes I teach leave Berkeley without having had a chance to work directly with the Bancroft collections," Tennant said. "The Bancroft Library is one of the most dynamic teaching centers on the Berkeley campus."

On the eve of retirement after more than four decades of service to the University of California, James D. Hart Director of The Bancroft Library Elaine Tennant was honored with the Berkeley Citation, awarded to those "whose contributions to UC Berkeley go beyond the call of duty and whose achievements exceed the standards of excellence in their fields." In nominating Tennant, German department Chair Karen Feldman joined University Librarian Jeffrey MacKie-Mason in applauding her as a "selfless and tireless campus citizen," with manifold accomplishments, including bolstering diversity in Bancroft's collections, boosting digitization efforts, spearheading successful fundraising initiatives, and lowering the barriers to access the library's

treasures, in addition to her extensive work for the Academic Senate and the departments of German and Scandinavian.



Beth Weil
Open Access Visionary

Beth Weil made important contributions to the UC Berkeley Library, the field of science librarianship and the biosciences world of scholarly publishing. Weil received the UCB Distinguished Librarian Award in 2003 and was awarded emeritus status upon her retirement. At Berkeley, from 1987-1995 she managed the complex process of building the Marian Koshland Biosciences Library facility, collections and staff and served as the Head of the branch. She was a leader in science librarianship, and worked closely with international scholarly database producers, journal publishers and UC librarians to shape the scholarly publishing world in biosciences.

As a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Public Library of Science (PLoS) she was a key influencer in the Open Access movement. Weil was a member of the UCB Library Scholarly Communications Advisory Group (2007) and provided vision in designing and implementing the Berkeley Research Impact Initiative (BRII) which established the rationale and structure for library funding to pay publishers' charges to fund open access to published articles by Berkeley researchers. She served as the BRII Application Coordinator and in 2010 co-authored with Chuck Eckman an article about BRII and the need for open access funds (PloS Biology).

From 1998-2011 she served on the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) Library Advisory Board.



Judy Yung, MLIS '68 & PhD (1946-2020)

Scholar in Chinese American Studies & Historian of Chinese America

Born in 1946 and raised in San Francisco Chinatown, Judy Yung earned her B.A. in English Literature and Chinese Language from SF State University. Yung was the fifth daughter of six children of immigrant parents from Guangdong Province who were detained at Angel Island. Her father was a union janitor in a Nob Hill hotel and her mother stitched clothes in Chinatown. Yung made an effort to become both bilingual and bi-literate in her household language of Cantonese.

At UC Berkeley, she earned her Master's in Library Science at the UC Berkeley School of Librarianship, a predecessor to the School of Information, and Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies. Afterwards, Yung joined the Chinatown branch of the San Francisco Public Library—the first person of Chinese descent to head that branch—and then went on to develop the Asian branch of the Oakland Public Library. In 1980, Yung co-published *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940*. With a federal grant from the Women's Educational Equity Program, she directed the Chinese Women of America Research Project, which resulted in a photography exhibition at the Chinese Culture Center in San Francisco.

From 1990-2004, Yung was a professor in the American Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz where she is credited with inaugurating the first courses in Asian American Studies at UCSC. All together, Yung wrote, co-wrote, or edited eight nonfiction books, including the bestseller “Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco,” published in 1995. Her many awards include being National Women's History Month Honoree in 2015; the 2007 Annie Soo Spirit Award from Chinese Historical Society of America; and the Lifetime Achievement Award, Association for Asian American Studies in 2006.

Source: Berkeley School of Information. “Alumna Judy Yung, a Pioneer in Asian American Scholarship, Dies at 74.” Jan 12, 2021.