

A Sharing Life

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academic, and special libraries in the 16 counties of southwest Michigan. Her previous library experiences gave her knowledge of the needs and concerns of all types of libraries.

In 1987, Bettina assumed the additional responsibilities of Library Development Officer, a position that required grant preparation and solicitation of support for the University Libraries. In 1990, she was appointed Interim Assistant Dean of Libraries for Research and Regional Access, and in 1991, Assistant Dean for Library Resources, a position that she currently holds. Among her responsibilities are: administering the collection development and management activities relating to library materials including development of the allocation for the library's materials budget; administering the resource sharing, interlibrary loan, and distance education library services; providing leadership in library fund raising, gifts, and grants; and monitoring library publications and public relations activities. Her experience in resource sharing has led to the development of and participation in cooperative regional and statewide programs in collection development and interlibrary loan. She has also served on national committees such as the Center for Research Libraries Advisory Committee and OCLC's Resource Sharing Advisory Committee. Bettina is also active in the American Library Association, and currently serves on committees dealing with collection development and distance learning.

One of her favorite projects is the Friends of the University Libraries. Involved from the beginning in the development of the Friends' organization, Bettina has served as treasurer of the organization, and is its current president. She oversees the successful book sales sponsored by the Friends, and is a major supporter of the lecture series initiated by the Friends in 1997. She enjoys meeting and talking with members of the Friends, and encourages anyone interested in joining the Friends, or who wants to attend an activity sponsored by the Friends, to call or write her personally (616 387-5143 or Waldo Library, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008).

As one might guess, much of Bettina's time is centered in her work at the University Libraries, and activities within the University. Regardless, she is always willing to visit bookstores and public libraries, is a serious member of an investment club, is often found at the symphony

and other community musical events, is keenly interested in travel, and, of course, is enthusiastic about "getting together" with friends. But, above all, some people would note her love of cats. Bettina Meyer is a cat person. She is especially fond of calicos, the three-colored cats that are always female. She can regale you with tales of the several that have owned her, and, particularly, the current grouping of Molly, Muffin, and Murphy. A prominent piece of furniture in her home is a "jungle gym" for her cats—some five feet tall, it occupies a corner of her favorite room, and one or more of the "M" cats is invariably found on one section or another—resource sharing even at home.

Carlson Orates...

By Galen Rike

Guest speaker Lewis Carlson, Professor of History, WMU, entertained and enlightened members at the Friends' meeting held November 4, 1998 in the Edwin and Mary Meader Rare Book Room in Waldo Library. Speaking enthusiastically about "An Oral Historian's Work," Professor Carlson described the role of the oral historian with a special emphasis on the fact that he "tries to encourage [his] students to approach learning with an open mind, but with an awareness that values dictate most of our historical choices."



Lance Query, Professor Carlson, and David McKee

Dr. Galen Rike, Associate Professor and Central Reference Librarian in Waldo, is an avid photographer who has contributed his time and talent to five years of *Gatherings*' illustrations.

The Book Man

By David Isaacson

[David Isaacson is a frequent contributor to *Gatherings*. He is also a critic and author whose distrust of technology as a panacea or substitute for scholarly research is well documented. Many years ago, he wrote the following short story that bears repeating as we approach the millennium.]

Mrs. Jones, may I see you for a moment?" Melvil asked, rather sheepishly.

"Yes, Melvil, what can I do for you?" Mrs. Jones replied, as she looked up from a six-inch stack of pages printed from a nearby computer terminal.

"I don't want to bother you, but I have a question I'm not sure I can handle out at the reference desk. I didn't want to turn the client away so I told him to wait while I sought assistance from the director of the information center. Ordinarily, I wouldn't trouble you, but this man's request wasn't covered in our retrievability class last year in information access school."

"Alright, Melvil, calm down and batch your thoughts together. Every new information specialist can expect a few ambiguous queries when he or she is an intern. Perhaps you're having a little spell of down time? Vent your concept confusion—it will clear your system."

"Mrs. Jones, there's a man out there who says he wants a book."

"What did you say, Melvil?" "A client says he wants to see a book." Melvil was beginning to be quite flushed.

"I'm pleased you referred this matter to me, Melvil. You were perfectly within your duty not to dismiss this query. This ought to be a viable learning experience for you. You know, the last time someone made such a request was in 2001. This man must be very outmoded. Actually, I think we can dispense with this by transferring it to archives. I'll just access the interactive intranet and see if Arnold Vobble can help us."

"Hello, A.V., is that you? Have you a few moments to spare on an antiquarian problem? No, I'd rather not discuss it over the intranet—it involves a ticklish issue of intellectual freedom."

Mrs. Jones and Mr. Dewey walked over to the transdepartmental transport portal and pressed the button for archives. Within a few milliseconds they were standing in front of Mr. Vobble. They had not arrived at an optimum moment.

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