

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

INTERVIEW

WITH

**MADELINE V. TAYLOR,
AHIP, FMLA**

Interview conducted by Cynthia L. Henderson, AHIP

April 18, 2011

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Consent Form for Oral History Interview (2002 version)

This confirms my understanding and agreement with the Medical Library Association (MLA) concerning my participation in an oral history interview as a part of MLA's Oral History Program.

1. I agree to be interviewed by Cynthia L. Henderson on April 18, 2011. I understand that my interview will be recorded and that a transcript and edited version of my interview will later be created. I understand that I will be given an opportunity to review and edit the edited transcript before its release.

2. I hereby grant and assign all right, title, and interest to any and all recordings and transcripts of my interview including copyright [and all rights subsumed thereunder] to MLA. I will be given a copy of the edited transcript for my personal use. I understand that the transfer of these rights to MLA confers no obligations on MLA to promote, market, or otherwise make publicly available copies of the interview.

3. One or more edited and/or condensed versions of the interview, approved by me, may be disseminated by MLA, as it deems appropriate.

4. I understand that the original, unedited recording of my interview and the original unedited transcript will be maintained in the MLA archives at the National Library of Medicine, or at such other place as MLA may reasonably designate, and may be made available to researchers who have demonstrated that they have appropriate qualifications. I further understand that the original unedited recording and/or the original unedited transcript will be made available with the following restrictions (Check one):

☒ No restrictions

☐ The following specified portions of the interview will not be made available to anyone until _____.

Madeline V. Taylor

Name of Interviewee

Madeline V. Taylor
Signature

Date April 18, 2011

Cynthia L. Henderson

Name

of MLA Interviewer(s)

Cynthia L. Henderson
Signature

Date 4/18/2011

Accepted by : Clark Funk

Date 5/15/11

MLA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Biographical Statement

Madeline V. Taylor, AHIP, FMLA, spent twenty-two years at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). She was a leader in the New York – New Jersey Chapter of the Medical Library Association and a proponent of gaining association experience through chapter activity. She played a pioneering role in the organization of the Chapter Council when MLA implemented its new group structure.

As a chemistry major in college, Taylor became interested in science librarianship as a career. She worked in the Science and Industry Division of the Brooklyn Public Library as a trainee and as a hospital librarian at Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital in Brooklyn, as well as a publications librarian for a medical advertising agency. When she completed her library degree from Columbia University, her first position was with the library of the Harlem Hospital Center, which was affiliated with Columbia. From there, she went to UMDNJ, where she held several positions including director of the George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences in Newark and assistant university librarian, at a time of growth and expansion of mission for the library system.

In her role at UMDNJ, Taylor participated in cooperative regional ventures such as the Medical Library Center of New York. She coauthored a grant awarded by the National Library of Medicine in 1986 that created the statewide communication network to link the UMDNJ libraries electronically and to make bibliographic information accessible remotely to health care professionals. She was acknowledged for her support of accreditation studies for the medical and dental schools. She was appointed by the New Jersey state librarian to a special committee for planning and protocols for the newly established New Jersey Library Network and served on the Council for Higher Education in Newark.

Taylor was chair of the New York Regional Group and was involved in the restructuring of MLA that converted regional groups to chapters and integrated them into the national governance of the association. She was elected as the first representative of her chapter to the new Chapter Council and served as second chair of the council from 1983-1986. She compiled the initial edition of the procedures manual for the council. At the same time, she served a term on the MLA Board of Directors and participated in strategic planning for the association. She was also elected to the Nominating Committee. She represented MLA on the Council of National Library and Information Associations and was elected to its Board of Directors and as chair of the council. She was named a Fellow of MLA in 1994.

On her retirement, UMDNJ recognized Taylor as a “leader in efforts to bring medical libraries together to share resources and to work cooperatively toward the solution of common problems.”

Medical Library Association Interview with Madeline Taylor

Cynthia Henderson: This is Cynthia Henderson interviewing Madeline Taylor on April 18, 2011 [in Brooklyn, New York], for the MLA [Medical Library Association] Oral History Project. So Madeline, what influenced you to go into librarianship?

Madeline Taylor: Well, to be really frank, it wasn't even on my radar as a professional choice, but at college in my senior year, there were five female chemistry majors and one of our professors, a lovely woman, I can't remember her name now, but she was talking to us about career choices, and she said science librarianship was a wonderful field for a woman with flexibility and chance for advancement and if you want to raise a family and all that sort of thing. And so it was in the back of my mind. I had fully intended to go to medical school, but this was something that could be, and as it turned out, this is what it came to be.

H: So, that answers how you chose medical librarianship. Where did you receive your library education?

T: Columbia University, when they still had a library school.

H: Do you still get contacted by the library school?

T: Oh yes, they are always asking for money and I always refuse. If they dump the program, I'm not a proud alumna.

H: So, how was your library education at Columbia?

T: As a science librarian, I had worked in special libraries. I had worked as a librarian for a number of years because of my subject knowledge, which was what really interested me more than cataloging. And so as far as I was concerned, I don't know what library education is like now, I assume that it's more about search strategies and information retrieval, where when I was going to library school, it was more about cataloging and organizing. Retrieval didn't seem to be the big thing, but it was organizing, and descriptive cataloging was a really big thing. And so a lot of my training was in that, which wasn't as interesting for me as other aspects of it. But I am sure I learned something. But I really can't say that I was very impressed by it. Let's put it that way.

H: At Columbia, did they have any special training in medical librarianship?

T: There was a single course. Tom Fleming, who was the head of the medical library at Columbia, taught it. Of course, he was really a terrific guy, and he was instrumental in hiring me at Columbia when I completed library school.

H: Other than Tom's course, were there any memorable courses for you?

T: Well, it's been a long time ago. There was a hiatus. I graduated from college in 1954, but I didn't complete library school until 1969, I think it was. It was either 1969 or 1970, I'm trying to remember [1970]. I had started library school in '57. I had gotten married, gone to Europe, came back in '56 and decided I did not want to work... I had been working as a chemist and did not want to work in laboratories, did not want to go for a graduate degree at that point in chemistry, and I thought, "Well, this is a chance to give librarianship a try." The Brooklyn Public Library had started its preprofessional program, so you got a chance to work as a librarian before making up your mind that you were going to go to library school. I was in the Science and Industry Division in the Brooklyn Public Library. I informed them I had no interest in older people or children, I really was only interested in the subject area, and so I wanted to be in the program only if I could work in that division. It was an eye-opener to see the kind of work that was done and the kind of people who came in to use the library, and it seemed like a good choice for me. And so I enrolled in library school. The next year I had gotten pregnant, and so I completed what courses I had, but then I did not return to library school until my daughter was about nine. One makes choices, and my choice was that I would not work full-time and go to school and neglect the child. When she was nine, she decided that it would be a great thing that we could do our homework together. And so we both sat with our typewriters and did our homework together, it was really nice. Anyway, it's been quite a long time since I was in library school to really remember courses.

H: It seems like Tom Fleming was a mentor for you.

T: The term "mentor," it's the buzz word now, everybody talks about mentors. We talked about role models, we talked about people whom we admired, but not necessarily imitated, or people that we could talk to. So, Tom Fleming was one of those. Mentoring again is a different kind of concept now I think. But he was a very fine person, very open and very generous person.

H: Please describe your early library career.

T: When I was really a librarian or before?

H: When you were really a librarian.

T: Well, I was a hospital librarian before I had a library degree. I was a hospital librarian at the Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital [1960-1963], which is now...what is it called? [Kingsbrook] Jewish Medical Center, or something like that. I had gotten the job because somebody else was leaving and someone recommended me, and I ended up getting this job. So I did everything, cataloging, and training staff. I had a small staff. And I worked very closely with researchers there, again my science interests. That's when we did a lot of bibliographic verification, you did it by hand, and you went over and you actually handled the volume and you read the German text. So this was fascinating, because I loved languages and I had studied German and French and Spanish and Latin, and so I could read all of these things. So, that

was a very interesting aspect of my job. One of the specialty research areas there was Tay-Sachs disease, and so I did a lot of bibliographic work on Tay-Sachs disease, so that was a fascinating part of the job. But then I left there, it was in a sort of isolated, transportation-wise, isolated section of Brooklyn. Very hard to get to. If you drove, it took you about fifteen minutes. If you went by public transportation, it took an hour with lots of walking and changing from one form of transportation to another. So, I decided I would learn to drive. Well, that didn't work, I was terrible. So, I decided, who needs that, I will get a different job where it will be easier to get to. A position opened at William Douglas McAdams, which is an advertising agency that specialized and had a publication section on medical... They did medical advertising and produced various house organs in the publications section [including *Medical Tribune*]. And so I went there as their publications librarian, I maintained the newspaper morgue, which meant I did all the indexing for the newspapers. I was there for eight years [1963-1970], I guess, during which time I decided to go back to library school. I stayed there because my hours were very manageable. No surprises, nobody was dropping dead, nothing happened, you came in, you left, this sort of thing. And so I stayed, but that again was fascinating because I worked with medical writers, I worked with physicians, and it was a very collegiate atmosphere. And because of my medical background, I had science and physics and chemistry and math and all of this sort of stuff that was important to them, it was a good work environment from that point of view. But if you know anything about advertising, it's not the nicest environment to be in.

H: Kind of cutthroat?

T: Yes. So, I stayed there until I completed library school, and then I worked at setting up the new Harlem Hospital library [1970-1971], which was run by Columbia. So I was the head of public services, there were three of us on staff there: the director, I was the head of access services, I guess they are called now, public services, and then the cataloging and technical services was a separate one.

H: So, does Harlem Hospital still exist?

T: Oh yes, yes, yes. I don't know what its relationship is now with Columbia University, because that was back in 1970, so I am not really sure what the relationship is with them now, but at that time I was a Columbia employee but I worked at Harlem Hospital, and if my daughter had wanted to go to Barnard College, I probably would have stayed there. But she didn't want to. She could have gone for no tuition. She said, "I don't want to go to Barnard." So that was it, I had no reason to stay there in terms of advancement or interests, and I went to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey [UMDNJ] at that point.

H: So, you started at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey as a...

T: I was [appointed] the head of the serials department in 1971.

H: Interlibrary loan?

T: No, not interlibrary loan.

H: No, okay.

T: The serials department. I later became assistant university librarian there and then the director of the main library [George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences]. So, I had a twenty-two year run there [1971-1994].

H: Wow! So, when did you become involved with MLA?

T: I am trying to remember whether I was involved with the chapter when I was a hospital librarian. I don't really remember. But I know from 1970, when I was at Columbia, I went to my first MLA meeting. It was in New Orleans. Oh, that was a great time. I had a wonderful time going there. I was born in New York City and had never been in the South. I hop on a plane and I am going to New Orleans and when I landed in New Orleans, I thought, "Are you nuts? How are you going to be able to get from the airport to the hotel, maybe you can't get a cab!" It just never occurred to me that there might be a problem. So, as it turned out, there was no problem. New Orleans is a very different city from the rest of the South, and I shared a cab with some businessmen and it was great. I think it was at the Roosevelt Hotel. I believe that was the main hotel. It was a wonderful meeting. I did everything, dinner at Antoine's, breakfast at Brennan's. It was a really great trip, a wonderful introduction to MLA, and it was at a time when MLA was a lot more formal. The grand ball and everything, you would wear your formal attire. It was very different. People did not walk around in blue jeans. It was a very different time, very elegant, and I enjoyed that thoroughly. So, that was my first national meeting, and I immediately became very active in the chapter and I have always been active in the chapter.

H: And this is the New York-New Jersey Chapter [of MLA]?

T: Yes, it used to be the New York Regional [Group] or something and then it became the New York-New Jersey later. But that's what it is called now, New York-New Jersey Chapter.

H: Did you ever serve as chair?

T: Oh yes. I was chair, I was board member there before I became chair, I edited the newsletter. I was very, very active in the chapter.

H: And then with MLA, did you do any committee work?

T: Well, I became, when the whole reorganization of MLA with respect to chapters and sections just sort of integrated... I am trying to think of what it was called at that

time. [Editor's note: Following implementation of the new MLA group structure in 1981, regional groups became chapters, and Section and Chapter Councils met for the first time.] But prior to that, when you were in your chapter, whatever you did in your chapter did not really count. It wasn't like a ladder up to anywhere, where if you wanted to be involved with the national [association] you had to be part of a section, because that met only with national. But the chapters were like, you do that, you play at home, but if you are serious, you are in a section. And then there was this whole reorganization, because [chapter participation] certainly was a very thorough training ground. It was something that everyone could participate in and get leadership experience and really make a contribution, but there was no mechanism for it to do that. And so I became very active in that whole move to reorganize and restructure MLA so that the chapters became an integral part of it. I was elected as the Chapter Council rep from New York-New Jersey and then I later became chair of the Chapter Council, I was the second chair [1983-1986].

H: Oh, all right, the second chair?

T: Yes, because Joan Ash was the first. She and Holly Buchanan... Holly Buchanan came in as the Section [Council chair]. But since everyone was elected at the same time and they wanted to have staggered [terms]...so by straw vote or something, the Section Council person got to serve for two years and the Chapter Council just one. So after one year, I came in as Chapter Council chair and then served for three years.

H: And did I remember correctly that you wrote the Chapter Council manual?

T: Procedure manual.

H: Procedure manual?

T: Yes, that was something I did during the time, the year before when I was whatever, chair-elect or whatever it is, I did the procedure manual. Well, as a scientist, I am organized. I like details, I like things that balance and equations and that sort of thing. So that kind of thing is something that I am very attuned to doing.

H: So, during your time on Chapter Council, in addition to the writing of the procedures manual and everything, was there anything significant that occurred while you were..?

T: Well, I think we were really finding our way, because this was a brand new structure. I think we grew a lot. Mary Ryan, who later became president of MLA, was my secretary at one point for the Chapter Council. So it was a real training ground, and a lot of the people who were on it have gone on to other offices and committees. But again, this is seventeen years later and I'm trying to remember all of this stuff. It's all in my Fellow's package anyway, look at that.

H: All right.

T: But it was really a growing experience on how to work together, to work with the Section Council, to work with the national, with the Board [of Directors]. So it was really a learning experience all around. But I think we did a good job, we came in; it was a good structure.

H: So, you served on the board after being Chapter Council chair?

T: No, I served on the board while I was Chapter Council chair.

H: Got it, okay. Were there any issues that came up when you were on the MLA board for MLA? Other than just the sort of the restructuring and everything.

T: I'm trying to remember. Besides the restructuring, I think there was sort of a turning in the direction of MLA, because it was during that time that Nancy...Lorenzi came in [as president, 1982/83]. She was the youngest person ever elected to that office. She is an IT person, communications person. And so there was a kind of a shift and a change in some of the direction for MLA, which I think was a change for the good, for the better. So, that was part of it, but I can't pin anything down.

H: Pin anything else down, okay.

T: But when we were campaigning for the restructuring, oh, we would disrupt meetings and march around. It was very exciting, it was really an exciting... You don't have fun times like that in MLA anymore; I don't know, maybe you do. And the New York group was very involved in that.

H: I didn't know anything about that. So, were you also active in other professional groups outside of MLA?

T: Well, I have always been interested in education, I enjoy teaching. I primarily have taught at my church, so I have completed eighteen credits towards a master's in religious education at NYU [New York University]. But I never did continue into seminary. It just didn't work out. But whatever I learned there, I applied in my library career. So, I was involved in training and teaching there. So, that's always been an aspect that I enjoyed very much. I have always been a good administrator and a good teacher.

H: So, who are the people that you feel most influenced your life and career?

T: Oh, I never think of my life and career as separate things. Everything is integrated. Whatever skills I have developed in one area, I have applied to the other. Otherwise, they are not worth acquiring if they are good only in a vacuum. And so whatever I have done in my career had a tremendous influence on the life that I led. They are of a package, they were all of one thing. So, I have people from my non-work life who were great models for me in terms of integrity, forward thinking, imagination, they

were imaginative people. And within the professional life, the people that I admired, Jean Miller, we were very, very close friends. She was a calm, confident lady and I always admired her. I didn't necessarily look up to her as a role model, but saw her as a valued colleague. And with many people, it was that sort of thing, these were valued colleagues. We worked together. Erich Meyerhoff, a dear, dear friend of all of these years, and we were always just colleagues. We were able to call on each other and work together on things. It wasn't like, I'm the boss and, you know, I'm going to show you the ropes. But we were all working, we were on a level playing field. Very, very fine person, and I understand he is still around, still going to meetings in there. But we had a very strong presence at MLA from the New York group, certainly during my earlier years. Again, I don't know whether that's true, whether it's all West Coast or the middle-of-the-country people now, but at that time it was definitely the East Coast people who were the bigwigs and leaders in MLA. Gertrude Annan was there, all that sort of thing that we had at that time. It was a very close relationship. So all of those people influence you, of course, because you are there, they are your colleagues. And we had a lot of cooperative ventures with the medical schools in New York.

H: Because they were welcomed then.

T: Yes, a lot of cooperative ventures so that you were constantly interacting.

H: Was the AAHSLD [Association of Academic Health Sciences Library Directors] group active while you were..?

T: Yes.

H: Okay, so you were part of AAHSLD as well.

T: Yes, that was active. The Medical Library Center [of New York, 1960-2003] was a consortium [of member health-related libraries in the New York metropolitan area]. I am trying to think of all of the libraries that participated in that. It was a sharing of collections. Some of your collection was housed there, and then interlibrary loan was facilitated through that. It was a cooperative venture with publishing of catalogs so that you knew where everything was. So that was a big thing. There were various kinds of cooperative ventures like that among the medical schools in New York. And then at one point, I guess after Jean Miller came, she had been with Estelle Brodman [at Washington University], they developed...I'm trying to remember the name of it, but it was a computerized serials check-in program [PHILSOM]. And our library at UMDNJ, along with five others, became that little core group that adopted that. That became, again, a cooperative venture among these libraries to facilitate the sharing of collections, not just in New York, anywhere, but certainly in the New York area.

H: So, when you were at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, what do you feel were your greatest accomplishments when you were there?

T: Well, it was an exciting place to be, because it was new and it was young. It started out as part of Seton Hall [in 1954] and then...I am trying to think, did it go to Rutgers? Then the state took over. But when I first went there [1971], we were housed in a little Quonset hut. I think we were just called the New Jersey College of Medicine and...Dentistry. Then later it became the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey [in 1970 with the consolidation with Rutgers Medical School]. Then later...it kept changing its name...it became a university [1981]. [Editor's note: After this interview was conducted, the New Jersey legislature dissolved UMDNJ in 2012 and merged most of its schools with Rutgers University, forming Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences in 2013.] But as its character changed and its funding changed, we had this input in growing the library, expanding the scope from being just a medical school library to being a university library and a library system throughout the state. So, there was always something new going on, and you had a chance to invent yourself and reinvent yourself. We ended up with really quite a lovely stand-alone structure for our library. Since I have left, they have done some remodeling in that too. But you couldn't get bored, because there was always something going on in there. It was a real challenge to go from very little to a statewide system and a university system. I wrote a lot of budgets. I'm also a good editor.

H: So you were made an MLA Fellow in 1994.

T: Yes, the year that I retired. So that was exciting. I even remember what I was wearing.

H: That was my second MLA that I went to, in 1994 in San Antonio, and I remember your reception and your advice to those of us that attended the reception, which was, quite simply, to just volunteer. Just go ahead on and work, put yourself out there. And I never forgot that. How would you like to be remembered?

T: Well, I'd like to be remembered as someone you would like to remember. I have had, over the years, various people come to me and say, "I'm following your model, I'm going through the chapter, activity in the chapter, into the council, into MLA." So, to be remembered as someone that had some sort of through path, that was a good thing. But I have had a number of people come to me and say, "The way you went, that's the way I want to go." So, it's nice to be remembered as a person that you would like to just chat with.

H: You are.

T: I guess that's it. Just to be remembered as a decent person and whatever accomplishments, they are there, and not to have those things forgotten. Because we were part of the New York-New Jersey Chapter, we were very active and very instrumental, and it's nice to have that remembered and to see the fruits of that. They don't just sort of disappear. I guess when I was on the board, was it Nancy

[Lorenzi] and Jana Bradley and myself, I think, we were working on a slogan for MLA at that time, and we came up with “Access to Information through...” Now how can I forget that. That was our...oh, it will come back to me. “Access to Information...” [“Excellence in Health through Access to Information”]. Anyway, we used that slogan for quite a long time at MLA.

H: “...through your Library”?

T: No, I don’t know. Access to something through whatever. But anyway, we came up with this terrific slogan, which of course I can’t remember now. Isn’t that awful? But it will pop back in. It was that sort of thing, to be able to work closely with people who were imaginative and dynamic and people who were willing to work together. And I think that was certainly the hallmark of the board at the time that I was on it. It wasn’t competition on the board, there was this cooperative working, and it was really very stimulating to work in that kind of atmosphere.

H: So, getting involved in MLA through the chapter, you always felt welcomed and valued for what you could offer going that route?

T: Yes. And you also got to know a lot of people. But you can’t just sit back and, as you mentioned, volunteer. Be involved, don’t wait for someone to ask you to do something, offer to do it, and then bring somebody else along with you. And that makes the difference. Keeps it alive.

H: So, what advice would you give people in the field today? We talked about volunteer, we talked about putting yourself forward, not sitting back and waiting to be asked. Anything else?

T: Well, I would say get away from jargon, I can’t stand jargon. Let’s speak English again. Many times as I am reading professional literature, it just sounds like gobbledygook. And when you come right down to it, it hasn’t said very much. It has just said it in too many words. Did Mozart have too many notes in his music? But to more clarity of expression, so it doesn’t sound like you are hiding behind something and you really have nothing to say, but you are saying it at great length. I shouldn’t say that. But I just find that we have become so technospeak, and not just in librarianship, throughout life, that we need a translator. We want to be able to communicate a little bit more effectively and clearly, so that you are not just talking to nerds, but you are able to speak to anyone and make it clear. So, let’s have a campaign against jargon.

H: No more jargon!

T: No more jargon, no more jargon! But clarity of communication is very important, even though I don’t know how clear I am being here.

H: You are being very clear. And I would agree with that. I think that medicine has a language that sometimes throws a barrier up for the very people that you are trying to help to achieve good health and it would behoove all of us to look at how clearly we can communicate, particularly when we are helping people to gain information about getting well or being well or staying well. And that takes a particular skill, I think.

T: Along those lines, being able to evaluate the information that you retrieve. I think there is more emphasis on retrieving than on evaluation. And there is a lot of information out there that can hurt you. A lot of erroneous stuff. And just because you can do a search and you can pull it up doesn't mean that it is something that is not going to kill you. So being able to evaluate, I would like to see, certainly in the health sciences libraries, we are very IT, we are very information technology. We have got that down pat. But to have that real emphasis on being able to teach our users that it is important to be able to evaluate what you actually retrieve. At the beginning of each entering class in medical school and in dental school, we always had an orientation for the students to introduce them to the library, to the concepts of information retrieval and information organization. One of the things that I liked to do with them, because I would introduce everybody, is to do a little brainstorming with them about what they would go to first, how they would look for information, how would they evaluate what they found. And it's amazing to think how many people think that a textbook is the latest information. To be able to demonstrate to them—have them tell me stuff which I would then write on the board and then to go back and discuss it with them, to see the “ah-ha” go on, and then my staff could come on and begin to tell them how to search, what to go to first, what was more current, and to think “Well, gee, I would have been looking in the wrong place.” So, I think this is a very important part of the service that we perform for our public, whether they are physicians, the attendings, the researchers, the instructors, the students. They are not all equally smart or experienced, and they really have to understand that what they are getting may be really old or untested information or has been superseded. If you read the *New York Times*, if they make a mistake, when they retract it, it's very small type, way in the back someplace. You may never see that. All you see is the incorrect statement, and you begin to take that as the truth without knowing that no, that was wrong, and that happens in medical literature too. To be able to realize that something has come along after that and check to make sure it's true. I think we have to put an emphasis on it. This is just from my bias of not knowing, but to really emphasize that. You have got to know how to evaluate and understand what you have pulled up, and it's not equally valid just because you can do a Google search.

H: I want to ask again about the MLA meetings. You talked about your first MLA meeting in New Orleans. Were there any other MLA meetings that were memorable for you?

T: I always had a wonderful time at the MLA meetings. Most of the time, when I was on the board, it was always a very, very busy time. But I found the programs were well-structured, and in general we always had really good keynote speakers. I have

always thought they were well-run. And some cities are much more fun than others. I guess it was Kansas City, I don't know whether it was Kansas City, Kansas, or Kansas City, Missouri [1973], one of those. We were having such a great time, we were out visiting some museum or another, and I think it was Erich Meyerhoff who came and said, "You have got to come back to the business session, we don't have a quorum." He retrieved us. So, we had funny things like that happen. But I have always found that the meetings were well-structured, well-run, and the local arrangement people always did a really, really good job. As I said, some cities are a lot more interesting than others. But it was always a highlight of my year to go to an MLA meeting. And during the year when Jean Miller was president [1985/86], and I was always her roommate, I got to stay in some pretty nice digs. So, it was good.

H: Other than Jean and Nancy, were there any other MLA presidents that stood out for you?

T: Well, I had a lot of friends who ended up being president. Phyllis Mirsky was a good friend, Phyllis. Alison at some point.

H: Alison Bunting? Did she ever become president?

T: Jana did, Jana Bradley was president.

H: Rachael.

T: Rachael [Anderson]. I remember Rachael when she was a cataloger at Mt. Sinai Medical School a long, long time ago, yes, Rachael.

H: Naomi?

T: Yes, Naomi [Broering] and Nina Matheson. These were all people who were friends, and we worked together on some project or another. And I think each brought something distinctive to their presidency and to their leadership style. We had a lot... You notice I haven't said anything about the men. We had a lot of women.

H: I'm sorry! I should have said...I should have...

T: A lot of women who were president.

H: Yes. Was Erich ever president, Erich Meyerhoff?

T: No. Gil Clausman was. I am trying to think of who else.

H: Irwin Pizer?

T: Was he president? I don't remember.

H: Maybe not. I'm trying to think of other people. Al Brandon?

T: He might have been president way back before there was any sort of change in direction of the...I don't know. You're going to look it up? I know various ones that have run for president but have not necessarily gotten it.

H: Fred Roper?

T: Oh, Fred was a very fine person. I really liked Fred, yes.

H: Richard Lyders.

T: He was from NLM [Houston Academy of Medicine - Texas Medical Center], I think, wasn't he? I didn't really know him.

H: Charles Sargent.

T: I didn't know him.

H: Gil Clausman, I found him. Samuel Hitt.

T: Oh yes, Sam. He always reminded me of a lion. He had this big lion's mane, he was a great guy, Sam. And we have had some memorable people, each with very distinctive personalities. Before the reorganization of MLA and after, and each one was...well, maybe their management style was different than before what we had after, but they suited whatever it was at the time, yeah. But I had forgotten about Sam; it's been a long time. Because I haven't been to an MLA meeting since San Antonio.

H: Since San Antonio, wow! Well, maybe we will get back to New York and make it easier for you to get to it.

T: It becomes quite expensive if you have to fly someplace and put up in a hotel and all of that, so you come back to New York and I can come to a meeting.

H: We will see. Maybe even Philadelphia wouldn't be too bad.

T: Well, \$150 a night to stay in a hotel someplace down there and a couple of hundred dollars for transportation, it becomes a substantial commitment of money. So you think about it and you say, "No, I don't think I'll go."

H: You know, MLA is working with virtual meeting attendance with members who don't get a chance to come physically to the meeting. You can sign up to view the meeting through like a webinar type of a situation.

T: I saw that on the registration form this year.

H: That's something that they have been experimenting with I think possibly since Hawaii, certainly last year I know for sure. And I know they are doing it again this year.

T: I can certainly see that in a library that has a substantial staff, to have it as a group thing that everyone is watching and participating in the meeting at the same time, that would be really good. Unlike the days when it wasn't that expensive to travel and you would get up and go, and \$900 went a long way. Now it goes no place.

H: Yeah, I don't see those days coming back too soon. Gasoline at \$4 a gallon, and so on and so forth. So, do you want to talk about anything else that we haven't covered already?

T: Well, not at the moment, but we can cut off the tape, and I will think about it, and we can come back in if I have something else.

H: Well, thank you very much.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Madeline V. Taylor

Current Position:

Director/Assistant University Librarian, University of Medicine and Dentistry, George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences, Newark, New Jersey

EMPLOYMENT

1960-1963 - Librarian, Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital, Brooklyn, NY
1963-1970 - Reference Librarian and Medical Indexer,
Physicians News Service, New York, NY
1970-1971 - Head, Reader Services, Columbia University-Harlem
Hospital Center Health Sciences Library, New York, NY
1971-1984 - Serials Librarian, University of Medicine and
Dentistry of New Jersey, George F. Smith Library of the
Health Sciences, Newark, NJ
1984-1988 - Assistant University Librarian for Library
Planning/Serials Librarian, University of
Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, George F.
Smith Library of the Health Sciences, Newark, NJ
6/88-12/93 - Director/Assistant University Librarian, University
of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, George F. Smith
Library of the Health Sciences, Newark, NJ

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

New Jersey Dental School

Member, Facilities/Finance Resources Subcommittee, Accreditation Steering Committee, 1990-1991
Member, Dental Curriculum Committee, 1990-1993

New Jersey Medical School

Chairman, Institutional Self-Study Sub-Committee on the Library, LCME Accreditation Survey, 1989.
Member, Academic Policies and Procedures Committee, New Jersey Medical School, 1992-1993

PALINET

Member, Nominating Committee, 1990.

Medical Library Association

Chair, Council of National Library and Information Associations, 1993-1994
Chair, Archives Committee, Council of National Library and Information Associations, 1992-1993
Member, Nominating Committee, 1992
Representative, Council of National Library and Information Associations, 1987/88-1990/91
Member, Board of Directors, Council of National Library and Information Associations, 1989-1992
Member, 1988 National Program Committee, 1986-1988
Chairman, Chapter Council, 1983-1986
Member, Board of Directors, 1983-1986
Member, Planning Task Force on Governance, 1983-1986
Member, Planning Task Force on Standards, 1983-1986
Board Liaison to Membership Committee, 1983-1986
Chairman, Subcommittee for Daily News Bulletin of 1985 National Program Committee, 1984-1985
Representative to University Serials and Book Exchange, 1977-1979

New York/New Jersey Chapter MLA

Chapter Council Representative, 1981-1983
Chairman and Executive Committee member, 1979-1982
Member, Executive Committee, 1975-1977
Chairman and Member, Newsletter Committee, 1978-1979
Member, Continuing Education Committee, 1978-1979
Member, Legislative Committee, 1973-1977

Medical Library Center of New York

Chairman, Advisory Committee of Librarians, 1990-1991
Member, Advisory Committee of Librarian, 1989-1990
Member, PHILSOM-East Advisory Committee, 1977-1983

Regional Coordination of Biomedical Information Resources
Member, Advisory Committee, 1977-1983

New Jersey Library Network
Member, Committee on Protocols, Policies and Procedures, 1987-1988

Essex-Hudson Regional Library Cooperative
Voting Delegate, 1988-

New Jersey Hospital Library Association
Chairman, Periodical Exchange Committee, 1972

New Jersey Medical School/Dental School, Chapter of AAUP
Member, Board of Governors, 1975-1977
Member, Committee on Economics, 1975-1977
Member, Committee on Women, 1975-1977

Council on Higher Education of Newark
Member, Committee on Cooperative Acquisitions, 1973-1974

Middle Atlantic Regional Medical Library Program
Member, Regional Advisory Committee, 1992-1993
Member, RECBIR Taskforce, 1987-

GRANTS

Co-Author, New Jersey Health Information Network. Grant proposal submitted to the Department of Health and Human Resources, Public Health Services, National Library of Medicine, October 30, 1985. Awarded June 19, 1986.

TEACHING

Developer/Instructor, Continuing Education course, "Procedure Manuals, a Management Tool for the '80s".
Guest Lecturer in Management of Health Sciences Libraries, Rutgers School of Communication, Information and Library Studies, 1982-1988

PUBLICATIONS

Editor, University Libraries: A Guide to Facilities and Services. 1986-1988; 1989-1990.
Editor, University Libraries Annual Report. 1983-1988
Editor, Smith Chronicles. 1991-1993

PRESENTATION

"Planning, Service Roles, Performance Measures and Management Information Systems for Academic Health Science Libraries", Council of National Library and Information Association, December 7, 1991

EDUCATION

Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY
Degree: B.S., 1954
Major: Chemistry

Columbia University, New York, NY
Degree: M.S.L.S., 1970
Major: Library Sciences

Medical Library Association, Chicago, IL. MLA Certification, 1975-1989; Academy of Health Information Professional - Distinguished Member Level, 1990-1995

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

VALUE OF PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES TO CAREER

Presented to University Libraries Executive Committee

December 20, 1993

As I retire, I am pleased for this opportunity to reflect on the events and activities that helped shape my career. Librarianship has changed and grown since I began as a librarian-trainee in the Pre-Professional Program of the Brooklyn Public Library in 1957. I had graduated from Brooklyn College three years earlier with a BS in chemistry, worked as a chemist doing gas analyses in a metabolism laboratory, and upon returning from an extend sojourn in Europe decided that a career change was in order. Fortunately for me, a professor at Brooklyn College had suggested science librarianship as a viable career choice in a counseling session for female chemistry majors during my senior year, and the Brooklyn Public Library offered the opportunity for exposure to the field without the immediate commitment to a graduate program, so I jumped at the chance.

I had an interest in medicine since childhood, planning a career as a nurse. However, when I neared completion of high school, I discovered that the minimum age for acceptance to diploma nursing programs was 18, and would mean a 1 and 1/2 year wait for me to qualify. College however, would accept students at 16, so I changed my goal and decided to become a doctor. It was quite an experience for me going from a small all girls high school to a large coed urban college populated by World War II veterans. The competition for grades was fierce, the curriculum challenging; I did a lot of growing up, fast! I also discovered that my chances of admittance to a U.S. medical school were low to non-existent; I was of the wrong economic strata, wrong race, and wrong sex, hence the shift in my major to chemistry. Incidentally, I had become engaged to my future husband by my senior year; he was a pre-law student and would qualify for the G.I. Bill to finance his graduate education (the Korean War was in progress at that time.)

And so I came to librarianship as a third career choice. I had always been an avid reader, spent hours in the library systematically reading my way through my local library collection. At age 12 I received my adult card and read everything I could lay my hands on, whether I understood it or not. So I came to librarianship with a great respect for the profession and some knowledge of classification systems and retrieval tools. Librarianship was at that time a reasonably clear-cut occupational field and offered a life time career to its members. It had defined certain kinds of work as its exclusive domain, thereby protecting career opportunities for its members, and defined the training in certain skills as preparation for work. The information technology explosion has blurred all that.

In 1958 I matriculated in the Master's program in Library Science at Columbia University, and in 1960 became a hospital librarian at Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital in Brooklyn. I had many an occasion to call on my network of colleagues whom I had met through the New York Regional Group of the Medical Library Association as well as the science librarians through my public library contacts. I subsequently became publications librarian at William Douglas Mc Adams, an advertising firm which published Medical Tribune and a number of other medical publications. The medical writers with whom I worked closely naturally assumed that as a librarian I knew everything, so I was challenged to use every resource available to answer their questions. I developed a phenomenal memory and burned up the telephone wires retrieving information from my association colleagues. It was a two-way street, and I was often able to supply information to my colleagues as well.

I began volunteering for committee work, spending five years on the Newsletter Committee as member and chairman, was elected to the Executive Committee and had a hand in shaping the first formal budget of the New York Regional Group (we had been operating at a deficit), served on the Legislative Committee while the new copyright guidelines were being debated and developed, and the Continuing Education Committee, and in 1979 was elected Chairman of the Regional Group. It was during this time that the Medical Library Association was taking a look at its relationship to the regional groups across the nation and beginning to redefine its mission. I became an enthusiastic proponent of the proposed new group structure, and was the first Chapter Council Representative of the newly constituted New York/New Jersey Chapter of the MLA in 1981. I was elected chair of the Chapter Council in 1983, the second person to hold that office, and was member of the Board of Directors of the Medical Library Association from 1983 to 1986.

One of the hallmarks of a professional group is its desire to elevate its status and strengthen its public image as a profession, define certain kinds of work as its exclusive domain, and protect career opportunities for its members. In the late 1970's early 1980's, the Medical Library Association was beginning to deal with the effects of a technologic and information explosion that was challenging its heretofore well defined domain as the information professionals in the health sciences. A redefinition of mission and goals was undertaken. Nancy Lorenzi, at 35 the youngest member to be elected chair of MLA led the association in developing a strategic plan. This was a new experience for the association and the Board of Directors of which I was a member. We tackled a mission statement as a first step. After much group discussion, Nancy Lorenzi, Jana Bradley and I were assigned the task of expressing that mission in a brief catchy form. We pared away the verbiage to seven words: "Excellence in health through access to information" and that slogan is still in use ten years later.

Goverance and procedural issues were addressed next. By that time,

the Board realized it needed a professional facilitator who was not a member of the association. Jai guided us in doing an environment scan, identifying strengths and weaknesses, threats and opportunities. Not only were we all new to strategic planning, but we were trying to implement a brand new structure for the association as well. I don't think any of us realized just how large a chunk we had bitten off, so we persisted and accomplished significant things in spite of naivete. During my year as chair-elect of the Chapter Council I developed the Procedure Manual by which the Council defined its scope, functions and practice. It is still in use today, suitably updated.

After my term on the Board I was appointed MLA representative to the Council of National Library and Information Associations. I was elected to its Board of Directors and am now serving a term as chairman. The Council celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1992. Its primary purpose is to provide a meeting place at which matters of library/information science interest and concern to more than one association can be discussed and appropriate action considered. A second purpose is to foster cooperative projects of value to North American librarianship/information science as a whole. This has been done primarily through the activities of joint committees on which any interested associations are represented, and which operate in whatever pattern appears to be most effective for accomplishing the purpose at hand.

Some of the accomplishments of the Council are: the Bowker Annual first published in 1955 under the editorial sponsorship of the Council; the American Standards Institute Standards Committee Z39 on Library Work, Documentation, and Related Publishing Practices began in CNLIA and developed into a prime influence in the formation of national standards. The committee eventually evolved into the National Information Standards Organization (NISO); established the Universal Serials and Book Exchange in 1948 to distribute publications from American libraries to help foreign libraries which had been damaged during World War II; the Ad Hoc Committee on Copyright in the 1970's and early 80's worked to protect libraries' rights during the Congressional overhaul of the Copyright Act. In the 90's the Council is addressing issues of electronic transfer of information and property rights.

Professional association activities have benefitted my career by giving me an extended network of colleagues, access to mentors of national status, a role in shaping the future of my profession, an opportunity to serve as role model for other librarians, and has enlarged my perspective on librarianship by affording me the opportunity to work with library professionals in many different disciplines. And all this without having to change my geographic location or even my job! My job performance and contribution to my institution have been enhanced by the experience and skills developed in association work, so it has been a double benefit. An added plus has been membership in the Academy of Health Information

Professionals at the distinguished level.

Madeline V. Taylor
Director, George F. Smith Library

*Presented Dec. 1993 to the
UMDNJ Executive Committee.*