In Memorial: Judith Ann Caruthers, 1943-2001

Judith Caruthers, former Director of Libraries at LSU Health Sciences Center, died June 27th after fighting a long and courageous battle with cancer. Her career at LSU spanned more than 20 years. She began her Medical Center career in 1971 as a Library Associate. She earned her Masters in Library Science at LSU in Baton Rouge and then worked as a reference librarian, interlibrary loan librarian, and head of reference. She left to pursue doctoral studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison returning to New Orleans in 1986 as Director of Libraries where she remained until illness forced her to retire in September 1997. She became a tenured Associate Professor in 1990.

She served as a consultant in the establishment of the Southeastern and Southwestern Area Health Education Centers and was a visiting professor at the LSU School of Library and Information Science in Baton Rouge. She was a member of the Medical Library Association, the Association of Health Information Professionals at the Distinguished Member level, the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association, and the Health Sciences Library Association of Louisiana.

The Library made many strides under Judith’s directorship; it moved into the world of automation by bringing up, with the Shreveport Library, the online catalog in NOTIS and MEDLINE online. The move from the old library at 1542 Tulane Avenue to the Isché Library occurred in May 1989. Probably her greatest contribution to librarianship was as a teacher. She influenced many young library school students to become medical librarians, and many of them have said she changed their lives; they all remember her with great affection.

Her interests were vast. She played the flute with the LSU Medical Center Band in the 1970’s, and she was instrumental in saving an Enrique Alferez frieze when renovations occurred at the Medical School. Mayor Marc Morial honored Judith for her contribution in saving the frieze by declaring November 8, 1996 as Judith Caruthers Day. She lived in the French Quarter for 30 years; she purchased a home there and was in the process of renovating it when she became ill. She loved living in New Orleans and the French Quarter, but Alabama was always home and Auburn was her university. She was buried on July 14th in Hugley, Alabama alongside her parents.

Farewell friend and colleague, rest in peace.

Contributions to the Judith Caruthers History of Medicine Fund may be sent to the LSU Health Sciences Center Library, 433 Bolivar Street, New Orleans, LA 70112.

-- Wilba Swearingen reprinted from the LSUHSC Library Bulletin, Summer 2001

Why NOT Reshelve the Books???

The signs are all around the library, “Please do not reshelve books.” Why not? After all, I know where the item came from and I can still hear Mom saying, “put that back where you found it!” Why make the library staff pick it up and shelve it when I can just put it right back?
We appreciate your thoughts – we really do – but we still ask everyone not to reshelve the materials you have used. The reason is simple, STATISTICS! Whenever a book, journal, videotape, or anything, is taken off of the shelf and used we count it. We don’t count who uses it, just that it is used. If we keep a good count of materials used, we can use that information to do lots of things. We can show the library administration that we need more money to purchase another copy of a popular book or that we can cut out a journal because it not used. In these days of tight budgets, we need to know what is being used and what isn’t. The library staff and administration would much rather supply you, our patrons, with books, journals, and audiovisual materials that you can and will use rather than spend money on things which will never see the world off of the shelf. We can determine, with the use of the information we gather, which items should be on reserve for everyone to use and which will circulate. Also, when it comes time to weed the collection of old and underused materials to make room for new materials, we can consult the records to determine the amount of use the item has had. If a book hasn’t been used since the 1970’s, it is more likely to be removed than something that has been used last week.

So, in the future when you are using the library and the little voice in your head says to put it back, resist! Leave it where it is (or somewhere we can find it)! Bring it up to the circulation desk! Let your books be counted!

--Julie Schiavo

**High-Yield Basic Science Series**

The dental library has recently acquired the High-Yield set of basic science review books published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. Purchased for the library by the Office of the Dean, these 11 books provide current reviews of Pharmacology, Histology, Biochemistry, Cell & Molecular Biology, Embryology, Gross Anatomy, Behavioral Science, Neuroanatomy, Immunology, Pathology, and Microbiology designed for studying for board exams. The books are on reserve for use in the library only.

**Databases for Tests & Measurements**

The LSUHSC libraries now provide access to two online databases with information about measurement instruments:

*Mental Measurements Yearbook* (MMY), produced by the Buros Institute, contains full-text information about and reviews of all English-language standardized tests covering educational skills, personality, vocational aptitude, psychology, and related areas as included in the printed *Mental Measurements Yearbooks*. Available for searching in [WebSPIRS](#), MMY covers over 2,000 commercially-available tests and is updated every 6 months. Each entry in MMY includes descriptive information, professional reviews, and an extensive list of references to related literature.

*Health and Psychosocial Instruments* (HAPI) provides access to information on measurement instruments (i.e., questionnaires, interview schedules, checklists, index measures, coding schemes/ manuals, rating scales, projective techniques, vignettes/scenarios, tests) in the health fields, psychosocial sciences, organizational behavior, and library and information science. HAPI also provides information about locating the instruments. One of the LSUHSC Ovid databases, HAPI coverage starts with 1985, although the database may include citations and abstracts of journal articles and book chapters as far back as 1916. The database is updated quarterly.

For assistance with these databases, please call one of the dental library reference librarians at 619-8550.

--Elizabeth Strother

**Journal Issues Needed**

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<td>Dentistry Today</td>
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Library Staff News

Vern Parker retired from the dental library at the end of April. He worked at the circulation desk from 1990-94, and then returned in 1999 for two more years. A friendly person, Vern went out of his way to help library users. He is now working part-time for a traffic engineering company in New Orleans and enjoying his leisure time. Many people at the dental school were sorry to see him leave, but we wish him many happy years in retirement from the dental school library.

On July 1, Valerie Hernandez joined the library staff. A native of Shreveport, Valerie lived in Louisville, Kentucky for the past 2 years. She has worked at both the Shreve Memorial Library and LSU-Shreveport Library, but most recently worked as a customer service representative for a cooking equipment manufacturer. We are pleased to have Valerie on the dental library staff.

Recent Acquisitions


Sciubba, James J. **Tumors and cysts of the jaws.** Washington, D.C., Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, 2001. (QZ 200 Un310 Fasc.29 1991) *At Isché Library*


Louisiana state university health sciences center. **Annual report of student admissions into health sciences education in the professional schools of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College System, including the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and School of Veterinary Medicine, December 1, 2000.** New Orleans, LA, LSU Health Sciences Center, 2000. (W 19 L93 2000)


Banks, Peter. **Fractures of the facial skeleton.** Oxford; Boston, Wright, 2001. (WE 705 B22f 2001)

Fu, Yao Shi. **Head and neck pathology with clinical correlations.** Phila., Churchill-Livingstone, 2001. (WE 705 F95h 2001)


Samchukov, Mikhail L. **Craniofacial distraction osteogenesis.** St. Louis, Mosby, 2001. (WE 705 Sa4c 2001)


Krol, Arthur J. Removable partial denture design; outline syllabus. 5th ed. San Rafael, Ca., Indent, 1999. (WU 515 K91r 1999)


Reference Collection


Audiovisual Materials


Thunthy KH, Ireland EJ. A comparison of the visibility of caries on Kodak F-speed (Insight) and D-speed (Ultra-speed) films. J La Dent Assoc 2001 Summer;60(2):31-2.
