

Foreword

The Librarians Association of the University of California (LAUC) is a unique organization. This history, in honor of its twenty-fifth anniversary, attempts to provide some insights into why it is such a unique organization, how and why it came into being, and its goals, objectives and accomplishments over the years. In addition to the systemwide activities, there are chapters from eight of the nine UC campuses, tracing the evolution of LAUC at the divisional level and revealing the distinctive characteristics of each division.

None of the chapters completely documents every event that has taken place. The authors, of necessity, were selective---though some more than others---of the topics chosen for inclusion. While a few major events may have been omitted, we hope that those included provide an accurate picture of the Association's voluminous and lustrous history.

Work on the project began in 1991, when a proposal for a LAUC research grant was funded. A group of eleven librarians met together to plan the book, and became known as the History of LAUC Committee. It comprised a representative from each of the nine campuses---Bill Whitson (UCB), Kate Mawdsley (UCD), Sylvester Klinicke (UCI), Miki Goral (UCLA), Dick Vierich (UCR), Karen Cargille (UCSD), Nancy Zinn (UCSF), Carol Gibbens (UCSB) and Judy Steen (UCSC)---plus a systemwide representative (Rebecca Lhermitte, Office of the President) and the general editor, Judy Horn, who served as chair. On some of the campuses, several people were involved in researching and writing; on others one librarian did the bulk of the work.

The histories were not easy to write. Some found their division's archives in deplorable condition, and spent innumerable hours rearranging the files before the actual research work could begin. None of us knew what we were getting into when we began the project; each chapter is the result of many sacrifices. In addition to those on each campus who did the actual research and writing, many others provided advice and assistance. Although these persons are too numerous to name, we owe a debt of gratitude to them also.

In the preparation of the systemwide chapter, special thanks go to Rebecca Lhermitte for providing documentation on the early history of LAUC from the files in the Office of the President; LAUC Presidents Sylvia Curtis, Ellen Meltzer and Alan Ritch for their support and patience in the beginning, middle, and ending periods of the project; Nancy Koller for reading and commenting on the drafts, and for her unfailing willingness to assist in filling in the blanks; and Jeff Selth, Librarian Emeritus, UC-Riverside, who agreed to be the literary editor, but who has done a yeoman's job far above and beyond what was originally intended in bringing this history to completion.

Special thanks and acknowledgement also go to the LAUC Research Program for its support of the project, as well as to all past systemwide and divisional Presidents, officers, committee chairs and committee members who have given so much time, energy and devotion to LAUC. All can be justly proud of the results of their efforts.

Judy K. Horn
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