Profiles Encouraged: Barbara Dean

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Profiles
Encouraged:

Barbara C. Dean

Education: B.A. in History, Northern Illinois University in DeKalb; M.S. in L.S., University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

First Job: My first job after college was as a secretary in the historical Research Department of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, VA. I was promoted to library clerk in the Department's library 4 years later only to leave for library school in another 4 years.

Library experience: My first professional job was as a monographs cataloger at the Pennsylvania State University, 1980 to 1984. It was a great job because the catalogers were involved in writing manuals to train the support staff to use our new automated system developed in-house. I also selected materials in anthropology and provided some bibliographic instruction for undergraduates. From 1985 to 1988, I was a program associate at the Council on Library Resources. The job was a real watershed for me because I had to think nationally rather than locally, learn much more than I ever had about libraries and sharpen my analytical skills. It wasn't as good as working in a library, though, so I left to fulfill my dream of being an acquisitions librarian by taking a job at the Fairfax County (VA) Public Library.

Current Job: I am currently an assistant coordinator in the Collection Management & Acquisitions Department. My job responsibilities include monograph and serial acquisitions, gifts, and interlibrary loan.

Residence: Burke, VA, an unincorporated village in the Washington, DC suburbs. I chose my condo because it overlooks trees and a small lake. I am also close enough to the District to take advantage of cultural activities there.

Activities: I am active in the Acquisitions Section of ALCTS, an associate editor for Against the Grain, and an adjunct faculty member in the library school of the Catholic University of America. I have taught a section of "Introduction to Technical Services" myself, but I have served most recently as a guest lecturer for this course talking about acquisitions and serials. This year I will be a coordinator for the Charleston Conference, a very exciting new project.

Family: I live with two cats who have taught me the purpose of my life is to do what they tell me. I also have a sister and three nieces who live in Kansas, and one honorary niece who lives close enough for me to take her out once in a while.

Last book read: Something by Julian Symons. I read a good deal of detective fiction and can never remember the titles, just the authors.

Interesting experience: I worked on an assembly line during the summer as a high school student putting the metal springs, or whatever they are called, in wire connectors. All the finished connectors went into a box under my work area. Someone would come around with a magnet and use it to stir the contents of the box to see how many springs were loose. If I had more than two loose springs, I was told to work harder.

Hobbies: Attending plays and concerts, visiting museums, antiquing, and reading.

Favorite Spot: A guest house called the Eighth Maine on Peaks Island, Maine.

Pet Peeve: Drivers who honk at me in traffic when I can't do anything other than what I am doing.

Single most important piece of advice: Adapt to change.