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Profiles Encouraged: Sharon Cline McKay

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Profile Encouraged

Sharon Cline McKay

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Born: November 5, 1946, Lubbock, Texas

Residences: A fourth-generation Texan who 'went bad' and moved to California at age 20, relocated four years ago to current residence in Sandy, Utah, a suburb of Salt Lake City, just outside Little Cottonwood Canyon leading to Snowbird and Alta ski resorts. Moved here from San Jose, California, to work for **Dynix** (now **Ameritech Library Services**). Now free to live anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, decided to stay and enjoy the beautiful mountains and newly-remodeled kitchen.

Education: BA Administrative Studies, **University of California, Riverside** 1977. MLS, **University of Southern California School of Library and Information Management** 1980. Earned both degrees while working fulltime in the general library (now **Tomas Rivera Library**) at UCR.

Summary of job experience: Employed for 13 years at **UC Riverside** as Library Assistant, Head of Acquisitions, then Reference Assistant. UCR served as a training ground for me, and I have several mentors there to thank for steering me into the library profession. After finishing my library degree, I worked at **CLASS** in San Jose for 5 years (**Cooperative Library Agency for Systems and Services**, now defunct). I then became an independent consultant for 2 years. My biggest project during this time was helping establish the **Silicon Valley Information Center** at the **San Jose Public Library**. The Center later lost its funding after a change in library director, and is now defunct. I also taught various library school classes as adjunct associate professor at **San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science**, while at CLASS and working independently. I joined **EBSCO** as sales representative covering Northern California and Hawaii out of the San Francisco office, then was promoted to Director of Library Automation at headquarters in Birmingham. I left EBSCO after a total of 5 years to live back in California with my husband (a 2,000-mile commuter marriage is tough) and to travel less. At that time, I joined **CASPR** (Macintosh-based library automation) as VP of Marketing, stayed 2 years, then joined **Dynix** (now **Ameritech Library Services**) as product manager for **Marquis** (now **Horizon**). As part of Ameritech's restructuring, my team was eliminated, and I was happy to find a new opportunity with **Blackwell's** about 2 years ago.

Family: Husband **Bill**, an independent consultant for the medical device industry. Two grandchildren (his, but I claim them) who live in San Jose. Two Siamese cats, Tai and Pia, who kindly share their house with us.

Proudest Accomplishment: Having experienced such a variety of aspects of my profession.

Most recent goal: To explore new ways of expanding electronic access to information; to make it easier, not harder, than manual methods. There are plenty of challenges in everyone's daily lives; getting information shouldn't be one of them.

First job: Checking out books for elementary school library in a musty old basement when I was in third grade.

First job with pay: Serving food at lunch counter at **Kresse's** (now **Kmart**) in El Paso, when I was 16 years old, with the goal of buying my own car. I reached the goal, with some help of a down payment from my Dad. This experience convinced me to stay in school.

Fondest memories: Collected from times spent riding a BMW motorcycle with my husband and other members of the **BMW Club of Northern California**. While riding my bike, I had to give my undivided attention to riding, with no time to worry about work or any other problems. Met some wonderful people, mostly professionals in other industries, and saw lots of beautiful places. Made some progress toward busting the stereotyped image most people have of bikers.


Favorite pastime: Watching laser disc movies from my husband's extensive personal library in our home theater.

Hobbies: Reading, especially mystery novels, walking, cross-stitch, crocheting and trying to understand how cats think.

Last book read: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by **John Berendt**. (To my ALAMW dinner companions: You convinced me to read this — Thanks!)


What I would like to be when I grow up: An architect.

What really drives me nuts: Telephone salespeople who call at dinnertime.

Single most important piece of advice: As I wrote this profile, I became keenly aware of the amount of change, not only that I've experienced directly, but that I've observed in the library and information science field. Yes, I've changed jobs a lot. Most of the job changes were to take advantage of new opportunities. Some were because the jobs and/or companies had changed and were no longer what I needed for my career. Many of the organizations and products with which I've been associated have changed names, gone defunct, been bought or merged, or otherwise are no longer the same as they were. While I like change, I've often been impatient with the process of change, wanting everything to be "fixed" immediately. One of my early mentors used to tell me to have patience. I've tried to follow this advice throughout my career and, therefore, I pass it along as my advice to others. However, I still agree with **Ambrose Bierce** who called patience "a minor form of despair disguised as a virtue." 

Biz of Acq from page 72

part-time staff member have been more cost effective? The total cost of downloading 4,796 records was \$2,018. The cost of hiring someone to work a 35-hour week for 15 weeks (approximately three months) at the rate of \$7.20 per hour would have been approximately \$3,780. Given that the average binder took one person approximately one week to work through and there were 46 binders, I do not believe that one person could have completed all of the required ordering. In addition to the **BCL3** orders, the Acquisitions staff had to finish up ordering from the library's regular monographs budget, as well as complete a number of other special projects before the end of the fiscal year.

Both **Midwest Library Service** and the **Catalog Card Company** provided good quality service. However, there was no substitute for the quality control that the Acquisitions staff contributed to the project. Without the Acquisitions staff overseeing the record selection, downloading, and other procedures every step of the way, what turned out to be a very inventive solution to an acquisitions problem could have ended up as an acquisitions disaster. If there is any lesson to be learned from our story about using creative outsourcing, it is this — outsourcing is a means to an end, but it is not the end itself! 

Rumors from page 68

The **ALCTS Role of the Professional in Academic Technical Services Discussion Group** is planning a program at the upcoming **ALA Annual Conference** in Washington, D.C. The group will meet from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 28th. And the topic is — Is Technical Services Being De-Professionalized? What exactly is happening when paraprofessionals in Technical Services are given duties previously performed by professionals? Are we on the verge of being eliminated? Come and share your thoughts, insights and experiences.

You probably already know about this address, but in case you don't **MX BookFinder** at <http://www.mxbf.com/> includes **Amazon Books**, **Interloc**, **Bibliocity**, and **Powell Books**.

Have you read the **NASIG** sagas in the last few **On the Road** columns which **Don Jaeger** has worked hard to get? They are hilarious. Well, I just heard from **Connie Foster** <RFOSTERC@wkyuvm.wku.edu> who wrote one of them. Connie has NEVER been to a **Charleston Conference**. Hrumph! We have to correct that! And while you're at it, see **Jim Mouw's** contribution to **On the Road** in this issue, p.92.

This is from *The New York Times*, April 28, 1998. We told you to expect it (see **Who Owns What Now?**, *ATG* April, pp.52-53). Well, **Times Mirror Co.** has agreed to sell its legal publishing business to **Reed Elsevier** for \$1.65 billion in cash. The agreement includes the publisher **Matthew Bender & Co.** and **Times Mirror's** 50 percent share of **Shepard's**.

There is still no official word out on the sale of **KRII** including **UnCover** and **CARL Corporation**. We are trying to find out whatever we can. Stay tuned.

Martin White <Martin.White@tfpl.com> <http://www.tfpl.com> is a new *ATG* subscriber! The subscriptions are GROWING! Several come in every day! Thank you one and all! And tell your friends about *ATG*! Spread the word!

Recently met **Ben D'Azzo** <bdazzo@infonautics.com> Southeastern rep from **Infonautics, Inc.** Ben used to work for **EBSCO Subscription Services** and is somebody who is fun to talk to!

OOPS! The **Faxon Institute** meeting report in the April *ATG* (p.72) mentioned **Eric Siegel** and it should have been **ROBERT!** Apologies. 

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