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Profile Encouraged

Sharon Cline McKay
<br/> <br/>Electronic Sales Manager, Blackwell's Information Services, 9712 S. Altamont Dr., Sandy, UT 84092; Telephone: 801-942-9500, Fax: 801-942-9500; URL: http://www.blackwells.com <br/>Born: November 5, 1946, Lubbock, Texas <br/>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. <br/>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 full time in the general library (now Thomas Rivera Library) at UCR. <br/>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 3 years to live back in California with my husband (a 2,600-mile commute marriage is tough) and to travel less. At that time, I joined CAPRI (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. <br/>Family: Husband Bill, an independent consultant for the medical device industry, two grown sons (both but a 4 year old) who live in San Jose. Two Siamese cats, Tai and Pis, who kindly share their house with us. <br/>Proudest Achievement: Having experienced such a variety of aspects of my profession. <br/>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. <br/>First job: Checking out books for elementary school library in a musty old basement when I was in third grade. <br/>First job with pay: Serving food at lunch counter at Kresse's (now Knarr) 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. <br/>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. <br/>Favorite pastime: Watching laser disc movies from my husband's extensive personal library in our home theater. <br/>Hobbies: Reading, especially mystery novels, walking, cross-stitch, crocheting and trying to understand how cats think. <br/>Last book read: Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt. (To my ALAWM dinner companions: You convinced me to read this — Thanks!) <br/>What I would like to be when I grow up: An architect. What really drives me nuts: Telephone salespeople who call at dinnertime. <br/>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 changed or 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."