Profile-Jean P. Shipman

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People profile

Jean P. Shipman

BORN: Chambersburg, PA.
LIVED: Orrstown, PA; Gettysburg, PA; Cleveland, OH; Baltimore, MD; Seattle, WA; Richmond, VA; Salt Lake City, UT.
EARLY LIFE: Grew up in a very small town in Pennsylvania with a farm in the family.
FAMILY: Spouse, Mark J. Shipman; Madrona, our cat.
EDUCATION: BA in Biology, Gettysburg College, and MSLS from Case Western Reserve University.
FIRST JOB: Reference Librarian, Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.
PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I served as president of the Medical Library Association for 2006-2007 and promoted health literacy as my primary presidential initiative. I also served on MLA’s Board of Directors from 1999-2002. I am currently a co-convenor of the Chicago Collaborative (www.chicago-collaborative.org) and have been a member of the Program Committee of the Society for Scholarly Publishing for the past three years.
I have worked in academic health sciences libraries (Johns Hopkins University, University of Washington, VCU, University of Utah), a hospital library (Greater Baltimore Medical Center) and with the southeastern/atlantic NN/LM at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.
IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Play tennis, cook, read, row, fly, and enjoy the outdoors.
FAVORITE BOOKS: Daniel Martin (John Fowles) and all books by Jodi Picoult.
PET PEEVES: Seeing people not capitalize on their given abilities.
PHILOSOPHY: Work hard but also play hard; life is short.
MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Becoming the director of the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library and the NLM Training Center, NN/LM.
GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Have the Eccles Library become a university discovery center and the source of major innovations for the University of Utah.
HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Very different from today in that many new librarian roles will be shaped, as we become more involved in achieving our universities’ missions. We will be able to work effectively and directly within different contexts and environments, thanks to mobile technologies. Libraries will become active centers of innovation and knowledge creation and less repositories of static materials.


Many people helped with the Penthouse Interviews. One of them was the amazing Albert Joy from the University of Vermont. Albert tells me that his brother is playing saxophone during Piccolo Spoleto this year. Wonder if he trained with Bill Clinton?

Anyway, Albert tells me that he comes from a family of musicians. Albert himself plays the flute and participates in a Morris dance group. I didn’t know that Morris dance is a form of English folk dancing. These librarians are hard to keep up with!

Really cool that another person who helped with the Penthouse interviews was one or our main hosts from the Gold overflow room during the Conference, Jack Montgomery! Talk about musical and talented! Besides having an announcer’s voice (I understand that Jack was a radio announcer in his younger years), Jack has numerous (how many, Jack?) DVDs against the grain


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