

Judith J Field (JF)

Interviewed by

Alice Pepper (AP)

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AP: This is Alice Pepper. I'm with Judy Field, and today is December 8, 2009. We're in our offices at Wayne State University on a beautiful December day, conducting an interview for the Voices of SLA oral history project.

Judy has worked in special, academic, public, and government libraries for over 20 years. She's now Senior Lecturer for the Wayne State University School of Information and Library Studies. Judy received her B.A., MBA, and AMLS, which is the Library Science degree, from the University of Michigan. Judy joined Special Libraries Association in...

JF: 1965, believe it or not.

AP: 65! My goodness. She's been honored for her service to SLA several times, and was named a Fellow of SLA in 1994. She also was named the Business and Finance Division Distinguished Member in 2007, the John Cotton Dana Award in 2006, the President's Award in 2002, the Rose Vormelker Award in 2001, and she also received the Purdy Award, Wayne State University Library's highest award, in 2000. She's

been active in the American Library Association, the American Society for Information Science and Technology, and was recently elected chair of the Library Service Division of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). She also serves on IFLA's Governing Board. Judy, tell me about the books that you've written.

JF: When I did my books, I think the most interesting thing was when I was doing the ones on apprenticeships. I did this when I was at the Flint Public Library. The staff and I pulled all the apprenticeships and internships that are available in the state, and published that. It came out I think to about 250 pages. They never had been brought together before, and I felt that was a very useful thing. Dick Beer, of the Adam Pratt Law Library, and I co-authored the book on Michigan Legal Literature, which pulled together the history of how the Michigan Legal Literature developed, which has a small interest to some people, and of no interest to anybody else. Since then, most of my writing has been basically article stuff. The biggest topic I did was on mentoring, which I did several articles on, and also the one that came out just recently on competencies for the *Journal of Science and Technology*.

AP: I knew you wrote lots and lots, it's just too difficult to write them all down.

JF: Oh, well, most of them were little articles.

AP: (laughter) So when you were a little girl, what did you want to be when you grew up?

JF: Well this is funny, because I either wanted to be a film director or a librarian. Don't ask me why, but it was A or B.

AP: So were you living in Michigan, so library was easier, or did you want to move to California to go to film directing school?

JF: Well I was doing a lot of work with the Little Theater in Ohio. That intrigued me, but I didn't necessarily want to be on the stage, I wanted to run things.

And then if I wanted to be a librarian, I was looking from the standpoint of being a library director, particularly as the more and more I worked with libraries, the less appreciative I was of the way that they were run. Because the word management in library land at that time was almost a swear word. And business was another swear word.

AP: You were in Ohio so what brought you to Michigan then?

JF: Well I wanted to get as far away from my hometown as possible. And one of the neighbors when I was getting ready to look for college suggested Michigan. I had no idea

what the University of Michigan was, which is hard to believe when you're here, and you assume the whole world knows about the University of Michigan. But I came up here--I was a little over three hours away from home-- which I might as well have been on the other side of the country, and the only time my folks ever came up was when I got married.

AP: They really were afraid to leave Ohio?

JF: Well my dad worked seven days a week, he was a butcher. And so, you know, the grocery store was open seven days a week, and so driving that type of distance was a really big deal. I knew if I didn't escape then, I would spend my life basically going to either Ohio State or Heidelberg, coming home on the summers to work.... And then, at some point, probably getting married and being stuck there. And I can tell you right now, that my parents' friends were not happy that I was being sent off to college, because they thought that money should've been reserved for my brother who was three years younger.

AP: Oh, so girls didn't go to school, just the boys did.

JF: Yeah, because the girls -- girls are going to stay home and get married anyway, so why educate them?

AP: Oh, so that's kind of big odds to fight. But anyone who wants to be a film director would want to direct her life in a different direction.

JF: I started off that, and then I went off to college and then decided that I really wanted to run libraries so the obvious thing to take was business courses. I walked into my first business class, with Professor Frank M. Taylor, Chair, Scientific Management. He looked up and said, "What are you doing here?" It was me and all these boys. He said, "If you're husband hunting, go over to the Law Library and study, and you should go downstairs to the basement of the business school and take secretarial courses, so you can help support him while he's getting his law degree."

AP: He said this in front of all of the other students?

JF: Yes, he said it in front of all of the boys. And of course the boys then immediately decided that I would not be part of any of their case studies. So I did all my case studies in a group of one. However, they were more than happy to talk to me when I was working in the library. They'd come running up to get help. But they would not study with me or anything. So that's the way it was when I went through the business school.

AP: And this was 1960...

JF: '62, '63, '64.

AP: Scary times. But you stuck it out.

JF: Right. I got my degree, and immediately went into the library program. And that fought up against the fact that I wanted special libraries, because at that time the library school at Michigan was strictly school-oriented and public library-oriented. And here I was interested in special libraries.

AP: You rebel!

JF: Oh, yes. So there were three or four of us that wanted special libraries course work and special experience.

AP: So you kind of actually helped lead the University of Michigan School of Library Science out of its girly thing, and into more business, because it changed very soon after that.

JF: And yet, I wasn't thinking of myself as being a change master or anything, I was just following logic.

AP: Interesting. So, while you went to library school, did you have a job to help pay for it?

JF: In the library, in the library.

AP: Did you start out in reference?

JF: I was in the Business School Library. I never even worked across the street in Hatcher, or even in the undergraduate

library, because the Business School Library was totally separate. It was like the law school.

AP: I was speaking to Nathan Rupp (2010 president of the Michigan Chapter of SLA) last night, and he was explaining how it was run entirely different, and the tenure track was different for the librarians at the Business School.

JF: Oh, yes.

AP: And you joined SLA right then when you went to school?

JF: When I went out, it was my first job.

AP: So, outside the library, the Business Library?

JF: Yes, after I got my Master's, we (husband Than) went down to Bell Labs Western Electric in Indianapolis, and I joined SLA and the Indiana Chapter of SLA welcomed me, and immediately put me to work.

AP: (laughter) What was your first committee?

JF: Assistant Editor of *Slant*, which was their publication.

AP: Was it a big a chapter?

JF: No, but it was an active chapter.

AP: So, when did you come back here, or did you work some place else before you came back?

JF: No, I worked there about three and a half years, and then Than decided he was not going to and go back to work for Bell Labs. He had developed other interests, so I came back. And I worked for the University of Michigan. I went

to Natural Science Library and did a major reorganization there, and prepared it for open stacks. Found some very interesting things in the process. I will never forget going down into the basement of it, in the Natural Science Library's trapezoidal shape, upside-down pyramid. And down there in the pyramid were all these little tiny hanky boxes and you have to be of a certain age to even know what I'm talking about, but there used to be little flat boxes with lids on them that you put a hanky in.

AP: Why?

JF: I don't know, but those are what they used for gifts. And they kept them. I had no idea what they were putting in them.

AP: I was going to say, it's Natural Science, maybe it's for some little bugs.

JF: No, they were all empty so I had no idea what they did with them, but I threw them all away. I left that to go back to the Business Administration Library, and worked there doing some reorganization work, and then set up the first purely international business collection for the Institute of International Commerce. And I say "purely" because the other ones out there were all basically combined with economics or something like that.

AP: And did this end up with a separate librarian or was it just part of the business...?

JF: Well, initially it was separate in the institute. And then when I left it and went to work for Flint Public Library, there was a reorganization of things within the business school and that went back in under the library.

AP: And in Flint you were in the Business Library?

JF: No, believe it or not, no. I was in General Reference. That meant history, it meant the Armed Forces Textbook, it meant literature, you know.

AP: But what about your dreams of directing?

JF: Well I was directing the largest staff there, because I had a staff of about 14. The rest of the units were much smaller, seven, five people. And I had two floors, and on the main floor I had three public service desks, an information desk, a clerk's desk, and the reference desk. You know, I had seven professionals.

AP: Well that was about the time I met you, when you were at Flint. So, what were you doing for the Michigan Chapter during this time?

JF: Whatever they asked, but not as much as what I was doing for a lot of the divisions. I was doing a lot of work for the Business and Finance Division. At some point I met Shirley Echelman and she and I then became kind of like a

team, and then she became chair of the Business and Finance Division, then I became chair-elect. And then she went on to the Board of Directors of SLA, and I followed her, on what was then called the Advisory Council.

AP: But you were doing things for the Michigan Chapter too, is that right?

JF: Little things, but nothing big. I was a Johnny-come-lately as far as being president of the chapter.

AP: Because I thought you were President of the Michigan Chapter at one time.

JF: Yes, but it was late in my career, versus early in my career.

AP: Were you following a plan, I mean these job changes for these better opportunities?

JF: Just things that came along the way. I wasn't even going to go up to Flint. Forrest Alter, a very active member of the chapter, begged me to apply for that job, begged me, practically got down on bended knee. And I told Forrest, "You know, I don't want to work in a public library, I don't like public libraries. Public libraries all follow don'ts, can'ts, and won'ts." And so I went ahead and applied. I went up there and had a lovely interview, and told them all the things I didn't like about public libraries. I went home and I said, "Well, that was an

interesting day, and I got a free lunch out of it, and know a little bit more about a library that I didn't know anything about." And the phone was ringing when I got home. I picked it up and they were so apologetic, because they couldn't offer me the job accounting for all of my degrees, like most school teachers get. But they were offering -- even with that it was still like \$2,500, which doesn't sound like much now, but more than what I was getting paid at Michigan. In addition it had a large staff, and it was in bad shape. I mean, I could write a chapter on each and every one of the professionals.

AP: How badly? How incompetent? How uninformed?

JF: How idiosyncratic they were. It was just profound. And they had all been under a director in the department who did everything herself. She signed all the letters, she handled all the mail, and she worked out a desk schedule that you practically need a degree in math to read. And one of the first countermeasures I made after I waited the requisite "two weeks before you make any change" rule, was to simplify the scheduling. I said, "OK, for now, you're going to work a night. You're going to know what your night is, that's it. We're going to rotate Fridays and Saturdays, and the rule on breaks is very simple. You go onto the desk; you get your break when you come off the

desk. And I don't care if you go to lunch at 12 o'clock or 12:15, if you're not due back on the desk until two, I don't really care, but you're still required to only do an hour." And the first few days, they'd come up to me, "Do you mind if I leave?" It would be like 11:50. "Well, no." They couldn't believe I actually meant it. Of course the rest of the library wasn't happy, but my people kept their hour, they were very religious on that. But now they could go and get back. Or go and eat and run an errand and get back. And because of that, I took away all of the clockwatching. Sometimes they would often stay until 6:15 or 6:20 because they're in the middle of finishing something up and they didn't want to leave it.

AP: And they felt empowered and encouraged.

JF: That was my goal. And it was amazing, the difference that made. And yet the other departments were still being run on these very strict rules. That's the way we've always done it.

AP: What did you do after Flint?

JF: I went up to the Legislative Reference Library.

AP: In Minneapolis.

JF: No, actually St. Paul.

AP: St. Paul. And did they invite you? I mean did they ask you to apply? Or did you just apply for the job?

JF: I was curious about the job, and somebody told me to apply so I did, and I interviewed for the job and got it. And I spent a year basically working up there, and then there was some political thing, there were some changes, of course I was an outsider, obviously. So I basically, for all intents and purposes, lost that job. So I came back to Michigan, and for basically about a year, year and a half I wandered and roamed. I did some consulting.

AP: Did you publish?

JF: No. I was doing a couple of things for SLA, but I was just doing some consulting work. And one of the things I did was I put in the OCLC system for the Law Library for Oakland County. That's how I got to know Dick Beer, and then we collaborated on that book. And then Joe Mika asked me to come teach a course at Wayne State's library program, and somehow from June to September, from teaching a course, I was all of a sudden working full-time.

AP: What year was this? '80s I think.

JF: Yeah, that sounds about right.

AP: So you were slowly ensnared in the Library Program.

JF: Yes, and it was here that I then was able to serve as President of SLA, in '97-'98, and of course as President-Elect in '96-'97. I also did a lot work with MICEL, which was the Continuing Education effort that went on in

Michigan for several years with Joan Durance. And overall, I just got to know a lot of people because of my various roles.

AP: So, but this was the entire Michigan chapter we're talking about, not the international SLA.

JF: Right.

AP: As you became more active in the Michigan Chapter, obviously you became more active in the International Special Libraries Association.

JF: Well actually I was more active in the divisions than the Chapter. When somebody came up one day and asked me about when I was President of the Michigan Chapter, I said, "What do you mean, I've never been President of the Michigan Chapter." But I basically served on the Board of Directors in each of three decades.

AP: It's good to have some continuity in there. Was there someone who mentioned to get you to go on the headquarters track? Was there someone at headquarters you worked with? Or was it just because of your work in the divisions.

JF: Well, I was with this group, with Frank Spaulding, Shirley Echelman, and Mark Baer. There was a group of us that somehow coalesced together, and we did a lot of literature things. We got involved in the ERA thing. I remember sitting around the table while Frank, Shirley, and I were

all stuffing envelopes for it. On ALA, I was basically doing some little things until I got involved in the Committee on Accreditation. In fact, when Frank Spaulding finished his term of office on the Committee of Accreditation, because you can only serve on it once, I succeeded him, and my term ended as my term began for President of SLA.

AP: Talk about who were your influences at SLA.

JF: You know, Frank McKenna (SLA Executive Director) and I fought constantly. I got to know a lot of the staff very well. We were always working on projects.

AP: What were some of the challenges in those different projects?

JF: Well, part of the biggest problem we had with all of this was when Frank died. I was on the Board during difficult transitional times, when Shirley Echelman was leaving to become Executive Director of the Medical Library Association, there was a search for the new SLA Executive Director after Frank's death, and Shirley and Vivian Hewitt were at odds over several issues.

AP: That's kind of wild.

JF: Well, they fought, you know. I mean Shirley had opinions, and it was a most unfortunate thing.

AP: So the resolving, to run the organization without that tension.

JF: Right. And then shortly after it happened we hired David Bender, and Vivian was very upset because Shirley, at that moment, had moved over to the Medical Library Association as Executive Director, and she thought that made Shirley, who was still on the SLA Board as Past-President, a spy.

AP: Dear me.

JF: So, when all that happened, I then moved, and my next group was Joanne Clifton, Frank Spaulding, Jim Tchobanoff, there was a group of us, even Gloria Zamora was in that group. And we just worked on the various projects that were coming along. And then I helped found the Library Management Division.

AP: I didn't know that, so finally, years after wanting to be a manager of the library, you're able to take action on it.

JF: Yes, I mean, I started off in Business and Finance, and I'm the only Business and Finance Chair that's been chair of the division twice, because the person who was supposed to become chair disappeared May 28<sup>th</sup>.

AP: Just before Conference.

JF: Just before Conference.

AP: Was this person ever found again? Or did no one care after a certain point?

JF: Oh, I finally tracked him down, but I never got a really good reason. And, so I was chair for two years in a row, and then I did some work on information technology, the library management, and then I helped found the Consulting section.

AP: I didn't realize that, so any other section you founded besides those two?

JF: As I remember, I was part of the original group where we all signed the petition and created it. Frank wanted me to do that, so the division got forwarded, that was back in '81.

AP: Does the Consultant Section still exist? Because now we have the Independent Information Professionals Group.

JF: Yeah, and you know, so that's all the stuff that we did. But I mean, I just, I needed to be inspired, because I was getting no inspiration from within the state. You know, the only person I could talk to about things, was Bob Gibson. And so if I wanted to talk about copyright, I called Bob. You know, in the old days where you communicated by phone or a letter. You know, and so, I wanted to stay involved in the profession. I wanted all those things that made the profession unique. And to do that, I had to be involved in divisions, and that's what I did.

AP: All this work you've done for the Special Libraries Association, what has it given back to your career, or is Special Libraries, in a way it is a career working for the Association.

JF: I think the university has been pleased because it's gotten the Wayne State name out there. Because I can tell you right now that a lot of people don't know where Wayne State is, or who Wayne State is, or any of those. And I've certainly given them visibility, both nationally and internationally. So, and once I stepped off the SLA Board, that's how I got more involved with IFLA, first on the Education and Training Standing Committee and then moved over to Social Science, and then joined Knowledge Management.

AP: Is there more you can do for SLA? Or now that you're doing more for IFLA, I don't want to say you're done with SLA, but you have...

JF: It depends, if there's something that somebody wants me to do. I see my role now more as a senior advisor. I had a conference call yesterday with Cindy Romaine the incoming President-Elect of SLA and she had some people on the telephone, to talk about some things, and she's trying to think about where SLA needs to go. Now, I'm more than willing to do that type of stuff, but as far as sitting and

holding offices and so forth, I shouldn't be doing that if I'm blocking somebody who needs to do it.

AP: So you want to encourage more people to get more involved and bring their new perspectives.

JF: Yeah, I don't mind, you know, being a mentor, and I don't mind being asked "Would you mind commenting on something, can you come into a meeting?" But I'm not sure, unless it's a big project, that I have much that I can do -- I'm not quite sure what I could do -- sure I could be chair of Information Technology, you know. Or chair another division, but I don't think that's probably most appropriate for me at this point.

AP: So for Wayne State, your prominence has helped the Library Program. So people are actually coming up to you -- in the Wayne program, people are actually coming up to you and saying, "Oh, I saw you at an event years ago, and you encouraged me to go to Wayne?"

JF: Right, and also, students will come to me and that is the reason they want me as their advisor and so forth is the work that I am doing or have done, in various organizations.

AP: And your real work experience too? I assume encourages students?

JF: And I bring that real work experience every time I run a seminar for my practicum students. Because they talk about public libraries and they say, "Well I don't know why we do things that way," so I try and lay my 25 years of practical experience into those practicum seminars, so students can get a holistic view. People say, "Well why don't you just have all the public library and practicum students together and the entire academic." I said no, because it's a whole world out there. And while there are differences, there are more commonalities than there are differences.

AP: Back to SLA. You're sort of institutional memory for the organization, and that's why they ask you for advice. As SLA is trying to reshape itself, with a new name to start with, are they turning away from the institutional memory?

JF: I don't think they care, to be perfectly honest. They're seeing a -- they're trying to create a new vision. And if you even talk about something that's old, they're not as respectful as they should be of the past. That we've already done this before, and it didn't work the last time, the question should be why didn't it? Rather than constantly retrying something.

AP: Are you referring to the naming controversy?

JF: Oh, some other things that have come along. I feel that we've lost a lot of, not only institutional memory -- when

I went to pull some stuff from the archives, I couldn't find stuff that should've been there. And it's like, "Who cares about the archives?" And I thought, well if we don't care about it, who does? And so, regardless of how, you know, with Guy St. Clair's history of SLA, at least we have some things locked down. But I know he had a great deal of trouble when he was looking for things, the gaps he found.

AP: But even if you had a full archive with the full history and the proceedings at SLA, would the new people read it? They see it as irrelevant?

JF: Well, I have a feeling a lot of people are looking forward and not looking backwards. And the thing we need to remember is that, this is an organization which has a multitude of people with different interests and we need to basically try to create a whole and you cannot just basically ignore people if they don't blog, or they don't tweet, or they don't do something else, because what is it they're doing, you should find out. And why don't they blog and tweet? Well, if they're already working 12 or 14 hours a day, they may, you know...

AP: As staffs and our institutions are cut and they have to do more. Does SLA need to stay as a whole, should it be split into different groups, being that special libraries have changed so much in the last few years?

JF: Well, I'm not sure it's special libraries on one level have changed. The true special libraries have always been inventive, creative, you know, a 'Just do it,' type mentality. And so, yes, we did jump on as technology ran. As you go way back into the late 1800s, or early 1900s, in Wisconsin, the State Legislative Librarian had a question he needed answered. He used Western Union. He sent out Western Union wire grams to his fellow legislative reference libraries across the country to find answer to a particular question on the death penalty, I think it was.

AP: As a list serve.

JF: Yes, but he used Western Union. And nobody ever thought about that.

AP: Can SLA exist? It's hard to see how SLA, with whatever name is going to evolve to, how can it change besides the name to serve what's going on today?

JF: Well, the thing is the nature of being a librarian or an information specialist, or a knowledge provider or whatever you want to call it, is still basically answering people's questions with accurate information in a very timely manner. I still remember Virginia Tibbal who was at the University of Michigan Natural Science Library. I am fairly convinced that if all else failed, she could've reached down to the floor, and picked up a dust kitty and found the

answer to a question. I was absolutely amazed. She couldn't muster herself out of a paper bag, and I was there to find out that basically none of the catalog cards had been filed for three years, and that the other catalog files, like Great Lakes Project and so forth, had not been filed. And that all the interlibrary loan money that was being collected was laying around in little piles everywhere and that there were something like 18 shelves of un-cataloged books. She didn't realize that every now and then she was supposed to check to see if they had been formally cataloged.

AP: But she knew the answers to all the questions.

JF: She excelled at her reference work. I knew nothing, unless she asked me something simple, like how to spell cat. I was not a good reference librarian there. But I basically got that library ship-shape. I opened the stacks and got everything caught up before I left to go back to the Business School.

AP: And was Virginia still there?

JF: Yes, she was still there.

AP: And answering questions wonderfully.

JF: Yes, absolutely brilliantly. I would just stand there in awe, you know. So, you know you want people like that. But she certainly would not be an example that I would hold

up, on one level, for my students, but I'd say, you also need to appreciate the skills that some people have.

AP: So you're teaching these newbies. What's the fun part about teaching?

JF: Well the fun part, in the old days, and old days in this case is before online... is basically to see the look of wonder as we talk to the classroom, and we show them, as I've brought practitioners in to show them, the spectrum of the field. That it wasn't the narrow definitions of what they thought the field was. And that there was no limit and almost anybody may need a librarian-type person even though we don't call them that.

AP: A knowledge professional, or whatever name.

JF: Yeah, it could be an assistant who basically did all that work.

AP: What's harder now?

JF: Well in online you never get to meet your students. So you never get to see that little "AH!" They got it; the little light bulb went off.

AP: Are all your classes you're teaching online now?

JF: This coming semester, they're all online. My practicum seminars, my special libraries class, and my management course.

AP: And do you ever get to meet the people, twice a semester, or not at all?

JF: The only time I meet them, if I run into them, some place in the Michigan Library Association, and they say, "Oh, I was in your class," and it's like, oh?

AP: Is this what's killed special libraries? The Internet? That people don't have to have that one-on-one interaction with the librarian--which they go out and search for themselves? I mean you're all online with your classes; it sort of strikes me as some kind of parallel to what's happening in the profession.

JF: Well, it's all on the Internet. You know, Google has the answer. And, quite frankly, this is the case where we can just roll over and play dead, or we basically can say, "Sure, Google is good for..." and give them three, four, five examples. But I say, "Google can't answer this type of question."

AP: So, for the elevator speech for the CEO who is contemplating closing that library because it's all free on the Internet, give an example of what you would tell them about what they get on the web, the deep web, the invisible web....

JF: Well, the first thing I would say is, how much time do you want your engineers spending doing searching on Google.

When Google can turn out 1,000,643 hits, how much time do you want them to spend trending that? And, can you guarantee me that the answers they need to find are on the first two pages?

AP: Which is as far as people look.

JF: If we're lucky. You pull out things like the example of the Johns Hopkins case, where that researcher did his own Internet searching, and decided that his protocol was straight and he had everything in place, and somebody died within the first six weeks of the protocol because he had not bothered to look at the old books.

AP: Life and death example. Let's see, I'm a new student, I'm just entering graduate school, I'm not sure whether I want to go into special libraries, public libraries, academic libraries, knowledge management, competitive intelligence, any suggestions, any guidelines?

JF: The first thing I tell them, I say, "You know, those are good questions, but you can't start specializing too soon. You need to get a handle on what you like. In other words, when you take the cataloging course, does that grab you? Did you like doing the reference course? Did you like finding the answers? Do you see why you need somebody who's specialized to answer questions above a certain

level?" And then attend meetings; you've got to attend professional meetings.

AP: That was going to be my next question. So I'm a student or I'm two or three years into the profession, sell me on SLA, or whatever the new name, whatever it becomes.

JF: Well whether it's SLA, whether it's IRMA, whether it's ASIS&T, SCIP, SAA, I don't really care what the alphabet soup is, but you need to be involved in your professional organization. These are the people that are going to tell you what's happening to the field and will help you stay current, and will help inspire you to keep being current. . And this is a field that relies very heavily on networking. It's who you know, and you can call. Somebody called me about eight, nine years ago, and it was somebody I hadn't heard of in probably ten years. He said "I remember you, and I know you'll answer this question." So I answered the question for him. I'll probably never hear from that person again, but that's it. We all do that. It's all one fabric, and we're all there to help each other. And if I can't help you, you maybe can help me, I help somebody else, who then helps who comes back and helps you. It's a revolving circle.

AP: You said two of the things you're proudest of are the two named scholarships you have. Tell me more about those.

JF: It's just my husband and me, and we've been very fortunate. Eventually my husband began to see our investment strategy, and so we now have a fair amount of money that I probably could spend on diamonds and fur coats and it'd be politically incorrect and etc. But that's not us. Basically, travel and books are what I want to do. And even with that, I'm not looking at five-star hotels and always flying first-class, so I decided we needed to start doing something with it. So I decided that I would fund two scholarships, and I picked Wayne because that's where I'm teaching, and furthermore, I wanted it for people who have an interest in special libraries or alternative libraries. And then I also gave money to Michigan for the same reason, and hoping that the two places for special libraries would still remain there, visible, because I'm the one who fights for special libraries. I'm the one who keeps reminded that there are all these alternative things that we could do. You can be a competitive intelligence person, you can do knowledge management, there's just no end to what we can do, regardless of what the label is. And I don't want to lose that, I mean I don't want this school or Michigan to just turn out public and academic librarians and school media specialists.

AP: What haven't I asked you?

JF: I don't know, I think you've pretty much covered it.

I mean, I don't think I'm particularly exciting. I've been very involved in association work, and I've done that working where I've worked in Michigan. I've not worked for GM; I've not worked for Ford. The obvious places at that time, I mean, those two, particularly GM, basically dominated, and we had them everywhere.

AP: Dominated the Michigan Chapter?

JF: Yes, and you know, you saw eight or nine GM librarians almost at every meeting, now we're lucky if we see one every three or four meetings. And I didn't have anybody who cared about those big issues, and so in order to keep my interest, I had to turn somewhere else outside the state, and so that's how I got so involved, and that's why my list of activities and associations is so long. And, you know, some of those were cross-organizational things. But, that's what's kept me going, that's what's kept me on the top of my game. If I had been left to stay here in the state, consider the places I worked, I would just be a quiet little person, "Oh, yes, I remember Judy." But I would be somebody, only who had been around me in the Michigan Chapter.

AP: OK. Thank you Judith J. Field.

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