

Commemorative edition Gedenkuitgawe

Dorothy L. Ivey



Dorothy L. Ivey has pursued a notable career in librarianship, spanning the period 1950 to 1995, two countries and work both as a practitioner and academic. She has combined this uncomplainingly with her other roles as spouse, parent and friend.

On her retirement in 1995, several of her friends, colleagues and former students decided to pay tribute to the inspirational qualities of her work by bringing together a series of papers on themes covering her range of interests. This commemorative issue of the *South African journal of library and information science* is the fruit of that endeavour.

What marks out the work of Dorothy Ivey is a constant attention to the larger picture without losing sight of the need for detail. This is especially evident in her later years of work at the School of Librarianship, University of Cape Town. The core of library and information science education has become, over the years, increasingly difficult to define because of uncertainties about professional identity and the role of information technology. One could have regarded this as being a symptom of the age: something which, if endured with a certain stoicism, would eventually go away. This has never been Dorothy's attitude; she has, rather, regarded doubts and difficulties as being a natural part of the central endeavour: to inspire and to inculcate a set of sound professional attitudes, coupled with competence, in her students.

As a colleague and friend the staff of the School of Librarianship has found her support, encouragement and wise counsel to be a major determinant of success and well-being in the sometimes turbulent life of a university.

On the occasions when she has disagreed with some proposal there have been good reasons, quietly stated, but no insistence on her view being the only tenable option. When, as has sometimes happened, she has been proved right in opposition to her colleagues, she has never been triumphant, preferring quiet acknowledgement to confrontation.

Dorothy has a wide range of interests which she intends to continue to pursue with vigour. Retirement for Dorothy means a change of pace but not a withdrawal from her previous life and many friends.

PETER G. UNDERWOOD

Guest editor

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