

## Dorothy Lyle Ivey: a bio-bibliography

Dorothy Lyle Ivey (née Amyot) was born in Cape Town on 13 June 1930. She married Sidney James Ivey (1918–1997), a leading Cape Town calligrapher, and they had two children: Graham, who lives in Basingstoke, England and Janet, who has settled in Hobart, Tasmania.

In the course of a long and rewarding career – beginning with a position as Library Assistant in the Cape Provincial Library Service in 1950 and culminating in her retirement as Senior Lecturer and Acting Director of the School of Librarianship at the University of Cape Town in December 1995 – Mrs Dorothy Ivey unquestionably made a significant contribution to the profession of librarianship and information service. Her considerable diversity and wealth of experience was gained at a wide range of institutions.

These encompass the universities of Stellenbosch (1951–1952) and Zimbabwe (1963–1965; 1968–1977), the library of the Rhodesian Tobacco Research Board in the present Harare (1957), the South African Library (1952–1957; 1978–1981), the Cape Provincial Library Service (1950) and, from 1982 to 1995, the University of Cape Town School of Librarianship. This record reveals a consistently ascending career path, interrupted only briefly by child-rearing responsibilities between 1959 and 1963.

The rich experience gained during the early part of her career – which included intermittent assignments as Deputy and as Acting University Librarian of the University of Zimbabwe in the period 1974 to 1977 – was shown to be of critical importance in her ultimate role as lecturer and researcher to several hundreds of students of library management and related professional fields enrolled at the University of Cape Town School of Librarianship between 1981 and 1995. She is affectionately remembered by past students as a meticulous and inspiring lecturer and supervisor, able to draw upon a wide knowledge and expertise in a diversity of professional tasks nuanced by their application to different institutional settings.

Dorothy Ivey had a thirst for preparing herself as adequately as possible for the demands of her rising career. With the University of Cape Town's Diploma in Librarianship (completed in 1952) as a professional base, she went on to complete the University of South Africa's BBibL Honours (1978) and the University of Cape Town's MA (Librarianship) in 1986, the latter with distinction. In addition, she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of South Africa (with distinction in History) in 1967, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at the University of London in 1969 – awarded with distinctions in both the theoretical and the practical components in the course, which made her the recipient of the Class Prize.

She was elected a Fellow of the South African Library Association in 1968, this status continuing when her membership was transferred into the newly-formed South African Institute for Librarianship and Information Science (SAILIS)

in 1980. In September 1996, SAILIS conferred on her the Honorary Membership of the Institute.

### Research and publications

Dorothy Ivey's MBibL thesis, awarded with distinction by the University of Cape Town in June 1986, was based on research into 'Attitudes towards the library and information science profession among practising librarians and information workers in the Western Cape'. An article distilled from her thesis findings appeared in the *South African journal of library and information science* (see below) in September 1987. This contribution earned her the meritorious award of the SABINET Prize at the SAILIS Annual Conference in September 1988. Dorothy Ivey's research also served as the basis of discussion at a general meeting of the Western Cape Branch of SAILIS in October 1986.

Several other publications by Dorothy Ivey appeared in the *South African journal of library and information science* and other cognate professional media and she contributed papers regularly at professional meetings. The following list captures the spread of her interests.

- 1978 The Malherbe Collection of school books. *Quarterly bulletin of the South African Library*, 33(2):59–64.
- 1981 A bibliography of the published writings of Antony Meredith Lewin Robinson, 1943–1981. In: *Bibliophilia Africana IV, being the proceedings of the South African Conference of Bibliophiles*. Cape Town: Friends of the South African Library: 179–204.
- 1983 Literature surveys and citation style. In Steinberg, M.B. ed. – assisted by Philcox, S.E. *Research methods for higher degrees: papers presented at a lecture series arranged by the Higher Degrees Committee in the Faculty of Education*. Cape Town: University of Cape Town: 62–74.
- 1984 Criteria for general library facilities in library and information science education. Paper presented to the Section of Education for Library and Information Science at the Annual Conference of the South African Institute for Librarianship and Information Science, East London, September 1984. (Unpublished).
- 1987 Attitudes towards the library and information profession among practising librarians and information workers in the Western Cape. *South African journal of library and information science*, 55(3):161–171.
- 1988 Current developments in public libraries in South Africa. Paper presented to the Conference of Public Libraries affiliated to the Cape Provincial Library Service, Cape Town, March 1988. (Unpublished).

- 1989 The School of Librarianship of the University of Cape Town, 1939 to 1988: overview. *South African journal of library and information science*, 57(3):284–296.
- 1991 Guest Editor: Issue presented in honour of Jean Gideon Kesting. *South African journal of library and information science*, 59(2):57–158.
- 1991 The administration of resource centres: record keeping. Paper presented at the Workshop on Managing Resources, organized by the University of Cape Town Department of Extra-Mural Studies, July 1991. (Unpublished).
- 1992 Will there be jobs for our students when they qualify? The market for LIS professionals in 1992. Paper presented at the session organized by the Association for Library and Information Science Education and Research, SAILIS Annual Conference, Vereeniging, September 1992. (Unpublished).
- 1992 University of Cape Town: new educational programmes at the School of Librarianship. *Cape librarian*, 36(8):14–15.
- 1993 Trends in job opportunities in libraries in South Africa: an exploratory study. *South African journal of library and information science*, 61(1):43–47.

### Book Reviews

- 1991 *Measuring academic library performance: a practical approach*, by N.A. Van House, B.T. Weil, & C.R. McClure. *South African journal of library and information science*, 59(4):315–16.
- 1992 *Library development: a future imperative*, edited by D.F. Burlingame. *South African journal of library and information science*, 60(1):58.
- 1993 *Budgets for acquisitions: strategies for serials, monographs, and electronic formats*, edited by S.H. Lee. *South African journal of library and information science*, 61(2):97–98.
- 1993 *Strategic planning in higher education: implementing new roles for the academic library*, edited by J.F. Williams II. *South African journal of library and information science*, 61(2):97.

As Senior Lecturer at the University of Cape Town School of Librarianship she was an eminently valuable member of staff from 1981 to 1995. She held responsibilities for a number of important teaching and administrative portfolios. Her academic responsibilities centred mainly on library management teaching and research (Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Science, BBibl Honours, MBibl and BEd). Here, as in respect of administrative, professional and social duties, she thoroughly deserves a hard-earned reputation for thoroughness, punctuality and utter dependability. Her role as Acting Director of the School of Librarianship in 1995 marked a fitting close to a principled career; her sense of responsibility lead her to agree to returning, in 1996, as a part-time lecturer to assist the School over a temporary gap in its teaching resources.

During the last 15 years of her tenure at the University of Cape Town, Dorothy Ivey acted intermittently as external examiner in library management for the universities of the Western Cape (BBibl Honours), Stellenbosch (BBibl) and the Witwatersrand (Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Science). The internal examiners of the papers she moderated speak highly of her professional knowledge, insight, sense of judgement, accuracy and consistency. Conversely, the moderators of her own papers have reported favourably on the consistently high quality of her teaching as evident from students' final examination scripts and dissertations.

She likewise distinguished herself as a committed contributor to the professional organizations in South Africa and Zimbabwe relevant to her formal interests. When she returned to Cape Town in 1978 she had already made a valuable contribution to the development of professional activities in Zimbabwe. She was a member and, later, Chairperson of the Mashonaland Branch Committee, and member of Council of the Zimbabwe Library Association in the late 1970s.

Her lively interest in organized professional life was soon to manifest itself in her membership of the SAILIS Council (1982–1992), and of many Council committees and sub-committees (notably those on bursaries, research, and formal education). She served on the Editorial Committee of the *South African journal for librarianship and information science* from 1988 to 1992.

She was founder member and first Chairperson of the national Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISER) which came into being formally when its constitution as an affiliated body was confirmed by the SAILIS Council in 1989. Under her direction ALISER organized a national Colloquium on Research in Pretoria in 1991. In 1992 an ALISER workshop, known as 'Co-operation among library schools in the Western Cape in the post-Bunting era', was held in Cape Town: Dorothy Ivey characteristically took a leading role in its organization and discussion.

She became Chairperson of the Western Cape Branch of SAILIS (1984–1986), and served in a number of capacities within the Branch Committee over the last 18 years. During this period she was actively involved in the planning and presentation of a number of workshops and symposia (*inter alia* on literacy, marketing, managing change and personnel management) which were followed, more often than not, by actions designed to further the cause of the profession-at-large. From 1992 to 1994 she was Convenor and first Chairperson of the Continuing Education subcommittee of the Western Cape Branch.

Dorothy Ivey endeared herself to many librarians abroad. She attended courses, and devoted study and research leave to attending conferences, symposia and workshops in a number of countries. Here she established firm bonds with overseas colleagues: contacts which, in their turn, nurtured great professional and personal respect and promoted the interests of the local profession in an international setting.

Above all, however, the enthusiasm, integrity and tirelessness which marked her involvement in all relevant professional interests will be the outstanding feature of Dorothy's worth: a person to be remembered fondly by her colleagues in the Western Cape and elsewhere in southern Africa. As everyone who has met Dorothy could confirm, she is unfailingly courteous, friendly, graceful and unflappable in her dealings with others at all levels – with an ever-present sense of humour all her own. Behind this agreeable exterior, however, one cannot fail to sense a determined presence of inward calm and sincere devotion to cause and to person.

As a confessed pragmatist she has personified, in so many ways, the ideal human qualities of the ideal practical librarian and information scientist – visibly practising what she was preaching.

*Aanhouer wen!*

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