

Gladys J. Rohde  
1915 - 1985  
ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, EMERITUS

B.A., University of Illinois; M.S.L.S., University of Southern California, June  
16, 1951

California State University, Fullerton From February 1, 1972 To June 1, 1980  
Birth: September 12, 1915; Death: January 2, 1985

Gladys Jolidon Rohde served as the first Associate University Librarian at California State University, Fullerton from February 1, 1972 until her retirement in 1980. Her reputation as a distinguished administrator and dedicated professional will be remembered by all who knew her.

Gladys was born in Cicero, Illinois, the second of two daughters of Cora and Ira Jolidon. (The older sister, Doris, her only relative, died just ten days after Gladys passed away.) She grew up in Chicago and graduated from the University of Illinois in 1940. She received a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Southern California in 1951.

Gladys began her professional career at Los Angeles State College in 1951, and during her tenure there worked with Ernest Toy, CSUF's founding Library Director, with whom she worked again at the end of her career at CSUF.

In 1960 she moved to San Fernando Valley State College where she served the Library as Head of Reference, Head of Circulation Department, and Education Specialist until her move to CSUF in 1972.

She was active in a number of professional societies, including the American Library Association, the California Library Association, the Association of California State College Professors, the Orange County Library Association, Beta Phi Mu (a library honorary society), the California State Employees Association, and the Alumni Associations of the University of Illinois and USC.

She organized the Chapter of Academic and Research Librarians (CARL) in 1971 which represents librarians from public and private universities, community colleges, and four-year colleges in California. This organization has grown to a position of prominence in the field of academic librarianship. She was a member of the Council of the California Library Association, its governing body, for a number of years.

Her most noteworthy contribution to the profession of librarianship, however, was the tireless work she did on the behalf of librarians. An early champion of faculty status, she ably represented her fellow workers at hearings and meetings up and down the state. She was statewide chair of the State College Librarians Round Table, later the State College Librarians Division, of the California Library Association, and a member of the Chancellor's Committee which worked with the Academic Senate to develop personnel guidelines for librarians. Her seminal work in this area

contributed greatly to the achievement of the substance of that status for CSU librarians.

After her retirement in 1980, Gladys worked at the CSUF library part time until her replacement was found. But she also found time to enjoy her lovely home, sew, take courses and pamper a lovely white Persian cat with devastating blue eyes named Lily.

Gladys Rohde had many friends on both the CSU Fullerton and CSU Northridge campuses, as well as many other close friends in different parts of the country. Among these, special notice must go to Joy and Bill Todd who worked for her as student assistants at CSU Northridge many years ago. After their marriage, they kept in touch with Gladys and when their children were born, Andy and Heidi, Gladys became their godmother. Her life and interests were rich and diverse and her contributions many.

Submitted by

Ernest W. Toy

University Librarian and Associate Professor of History, Emeritus

March 7, 1985