Professor Anne M. Galler (1931-1999)

By Anne Wade

On November 26th, 1999, a long-standing member of the Chapter, Anne M. Galler, passed away after having been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the summer. Anne dedicated her life to the library and information science profession. As a result, summarizing her career accomplishments is a difficult task. She participated in a wide range of professional activities, and has touched so many people throughout her 40 year career history, that it is a challenge for one to properly convey and summarize the impact her work has had on our profession. One of the unique features of Anne’s career was that she crossed barriers between special, public, and school libraries. She truly believed that information is power regardless of its venue. She recognized the commonality of service and the integral contribution of libraries to their respective organizations and clientele.

While Anne's career began in 1958 as Head Librarian within a company library, she eventually moved into a school library setting in 1965 and finally into the academic field in 1974 where she was hired as an Assistant Coordinator of the Library Studies Program at Concordia University. She later became Associate Professor, and continued to teach at the university for the next 25 years. She was Director of this Program for 12 of those years. In 1997 the Library Studies Program merged with the Department of Education and Anne was appointed Acting Chair of Education in 1999. She had to retire from this position in July when she was diagnosed with cancer.

Under the strong guidance and, in many cases, mentorship by Anne, graduates of the Library Studies Program found employment as library technicians across the country with approximately 80 percent of these graduates joining special libraries. Anne was well connected with librarians within the public and private sector as coordinator of the Program’s field placement and she worked diligently to ensure that library technicians obtained a recognized status within the profession. The areas to which she devoted much of her heart and soul included improving literacy, prison libraries, providing services for the disabled and disadvantaged, and school librarianship. Recognizing the poor state of federal prison libraries, in 1986 she established a distance education course entitled Introduction to Library Sciences that was offered to prison librarians and prison inmates. Its purpose was to introduce prison librarians, with no formal library training, and inmates, to basic circulation, cataloging
and reference skills. This resulted in improved library services in several facilities, as inmates who took the course were better prepared to assist the often solo librarians in running the library.

Anne was recently affiliated, as a named Fellow, with the National Library of Canada during her sabbatical leave. Her work during this Fellowship resulted in research leading to the publication of a school library manifesto, an international survey of national school library policies, and a Canadian school libraries (needs) survey. Further to this, through her work with the Canadian School Libraries Association, Anne lobbied to ensure that the National Library of Canada's gathering of national core statistics included data from Canada's school library community.

**Involvement in SLA**

Anne's firm commitment to professionalism is revealed by her active participation in a variety of associations. She has been especially productive in the Special Libraries Association at all levels. At the Association level, Anne was Chair of the H.W. Wilson Awards (1997-98) and Standards (1990-91), Government Relations (1998-1999) committees and was a member of the Task Force on the Enhancement of the Image of the Library and Information Profession (1988-90). At the Division level, Anne was Chair of the Education Division (1986-87) and Editor of the Education Libraries journal for nine years (1991-99). She was instrumental in converting this to a highly respected, refereed publication in 1993. Without her contribution and support, Education Libraries would not command the status that it currently does.

Finally at the Chapter level, Anne was President of the Eastern Canada Chapter (1988-89) and acted as Chair of the following committees: Scholarship, International Relations, Awards, Directory, Mentoring, Strategic Planning and Continuing Education. In 1992, she was Editor of the Chapter's Directory of Special Libraries in the Montreal Area and had continued to work as an advisor on this committee. Once again, she was seen to put her mark on this publication through the addition of indexes and an improvement in the format of the directory. Anne also established the Joint SLA/QLA Annual Christmas Fund-raiser event which has raised funds for the Canadian Organization for the Development of Education (CODE) for 16 years.

Funds from this event have purchased books for mobile libraries and reading rooms in Kenya, Ethiopia and Jamaica. Anne actively encouraged recent graduates in the field to become involved in the Chapters' activities, acting as mentor to many, and often being sought out for advice and guidance.

**Work for Other Associations**

Anne held a variety of positions with the Canadian Library Association (CLA): as member of the Joint Committee on Information Policy, the Committee to Select Nominees for the Hans Christian Andersen Medals and Honors List, the Joint CLA/ASTED Committee, the Committee on Library Technicians, the Committee on Intellectual Freedom, and Convenor of the Prison Librarians Interest Group, the Task Force on Professional Review of Undergraduate Programs, and the Continuing Education Coordination Group. With the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), she held the following positions: Honorary Adviser for the IFLA Section on Libraries Serving the Disadvantaged, Information Coordinator of the Standing Committee on Libraries Serving the Disadvantaged, Chair of the Coordinating Board for Libraries Serving the General Public, the Standing Committee on Libraries Serving the Disadvantaged, and the Standing Committee on School Libraries. She served as President of the Quebec Library Association (QLA) and the Canadian School Libraries Association (CSLA), and held a variety of positions for other professional associations.

**Scholarly Work and Awards**

Anne communicated her far-reaching knowledge and expertise through endless conference presentations and publications. She presented annually at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and also presented at the annual conferences of CLA, QLA, and SLA. Her extensive publication record includes articles in some of the top library and information science journals.

Anne was the recipient of many awards including the Annual Award for Professional Excellence from the Education Division (1995), the 1992 Librarian of the Year Award from SLA Eastern Canada Chapter, a scroll from the Council and Executive board of IFLA in 1991, and the 1991 Outstanding Service Award from the Quebec Library Association.
Anne's work has had a tremendous influence on our profession at the local, national, and international levels. She passionately believed in the fundamental principles of the library and information science discipline—particularly the need for improved literacy rates, providing reading opportunities for the disadvantaged and disabled, and ensuring reading opportunities for our youth. She fought hard for the survival of school libraries. Anne also recognized the importance of providing quality teaching and guidance to future librarians and information specialists. To summarize the impact of Anne's work on our profession it can be said that she has raised society's awareness of the importance of quality library and information services for all types of clientele.

I have had the privilege of working with Anne for a number of years, both as a faculty member within the Library Studies Program and as an SLA Chapter Board member—I say privilege, as I have watched in awe her boundless energy and professionalism. The time and work that she has contributed for so many years in so many areas, is really quite unprecedented. Through my travels, I am constantly amazed by the number of librarians who have crossed paths with Anne and speak of her with such high admiration. Many of us will miss her greatly—her friends, her colleagues within the university, within the Chapter, and within the profession as a whole.

Anne has carved her own niche in the history of special libraries, and for this reason the Chapter has nominated her for SLA's Hall of Fame. I can think of few others who are so deserving of this accolade.

Donations in Anne's memory may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society - Quebec Division, 5151 L'Assomption Blvd., Quebec, H1T 4A9, Phone: (514) 255-5151, Fax: (514) 255-2808; or via the web at http://www.cancer.ca/done.htm. Chapter members may also wish to contribute to the Anne Galler Award (see information below).

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Anne Galler Award

The Advisory Council of the Eastern Canada Chapter has unanimously agreed to name the Eastern Canada Chapter Book Award after Anne Galler. The Anne Galler Award will be given every year to a student from each of the three graduate library schools within the Eastern Canada Chapter region, in recognition of their high achievements in a special library related course or activity. Starting this year, the award will be accompanied by a cheque of $100. Your contributions can increase the amount awarded each year. Should you wish to contribute, please send a cheque made out to the SLA Eastern Canada Chapter and mail to: Darlene Canning, Treasurer, Eastern Canada Chapter, C.P. 1538, Succursale B, Montreal, QC H3B 3L2. Please include a note indicating that this is a contribution towards the award.

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Prix Anne Galler

Le Conseil d'administration de la Section de l'est du Canada a décidé à l'unanimité de donner au Prix de mérite étudiant de la Section le nom d'Anne Galler. Le Prix Anne Galler sera décerné annuellement à un étudiant ou une étudiante de chacune des trois écoles de bibliothéconomie du territoire couvert par la Section de l'est du Canada. L'étudiant doit s'être distingué dans le domaine des bibliothèques spécialisées, soit par ses résultats et sa participation dans un cours portant sur les milieux spécialisés, soit par des travaux ou des activités hors-programme reliés à ce domaine. À compter de cette année, le prix sera accompagné d'un chèque de 100 $. Si vous désirez contribuer au Prix Anne Galler afin d'augmenter le montant offert, vous n'avez qu'à faire parvenir un chèque à l'ordre de "SLA Eastern Canada Chapter" à Darlene Canning, Trésorière, Section de l'est du Canada, C.P. 1538, Succursale B, Montréal, QC H3B 3L2. Veuillez inclure une note pour indiquer qu'il s'agit d'une contribution au Prix Anne Galler.