

BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF A LIBRARY: A STUDY OF THE WOMEN LIBRARIANS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD

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1.0 Introduction: (Ben, White) As a gateway to knowledge and culture, libraries play a fundamental role in the society. The resource and services they offer create opportunities for learning, support literacy and education, and help shape the new ideas and perspectives, that are central to a creative and innovative society. They also help ensure an authentic record of knowledge created and accumulated by past generations. In a world without libraries, it would be difficult to advance research and human knowledge or preserve the world's cumulative knowledge and heritage for future generations.

The role of a librarian is very important in making a library to the Library. As an important institution of the society, libraries required to be well managed and without a librarian, a library is just a storehouse of books and other learning objects. The Librarian not only collects learning objects as per requirement and in anticipation of the requirement of its patrons, but also make several technical works to make a learning object easily accessible, re-accessible, and offers several services for greater usages of the procured resources.

Librarianship is a challenging as well as an interesting job; a librarian always enjoys the company of knowledge in the form of books as well as in the form of people who interact with him/her in the library.

Librarians have made a decisive contribution towards the development of the society while serving the library as well as serving in other capacities. There are many famous librarians who were once librarians, but are better known for their other work; Mao Zedong, Beverly Cleary, Jorge Luis Borges, David Hume, Giacomo Casanova, Nancy Pearl, Melvil Dewey, Eratosthenes, Philip Larkin, Mohammad Khatami are known for their other works but they were librarians.

Like any other professions, in the profession of Librarianship also, women have achieved greater heights, and the world has recognized their contributions. They have worked very hard not only in the libraries but beyond the boundaries of the libraries. There are many famous women librarians who have not limited themselves to the walls of the libraries and done wonderful works in the different fields of the society.

2.0 Objective of the Study:

The objective of this study is to investigate the work and, occupational characteristics of the female librarian, who have started their work as a librarian but achieve greater heights in the other fields. It is hoped that this study would bring more insight of the work of female librarian and encourage others to explore themselves in other fields as well.

The present paper provides more understanding of their contribution to the world other than their work in the Library.

2.1 Laura Bush

2.1.1 Profession: Librarian, Author, Teacher

Laura Bush is the wife of the forty-third President of the United States George W. Bush and the incumbent First Lady of the United States. Born in 1946 in Midland, Texas, Mrs Bush always had an active interest in books and education. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Education from Southern Methodist University in 1968 and went on to get a Masters of Library Science from the University of Texas at Austin.

2.1.2 Works:

Bush created the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries to support the education of children by providing funds to update, extend, and diversify the book and print collections of America's school libraries. Every year, the Laura Bush Foundation's grants award more than \$1,000,000 to US schools. The Laura Bush 21st Century Library Program grant, offered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, provides funding

for "the recruitment and education of library students and continuing education for those already in the profession, as well as the development of new programs and curricula". In May 2015, Bush bestowed a \$7,000 grant to six schools within Austin and Texas.

2.2 Hypatia

2.2.1 Profession: Librarian, Mathematician, Scientist, Philosopher Astronomer

Krebs (1999) Hypatia was a Greek mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher in Egypt, then a part of the Byzantine Empire. She was the head of the Neoplatonic school at Alexandria, where she taught philosophy and astronomy. According to contemporary sources, Hypatia was murdered by a Christian mob after being accused of exacerbating a conflict between two prominent figures in Alexandria: the governor Orestes and the Bishop of Alexandria.

2.2.2 Works:

No written work widely recognized by scholars as Hypatia's own has survived to the present time. Many of the works commonly attributed to her are believed to have been collaborative works with her father, Theon Alexandricus. This kind of authorial uncertainty is typical for female philosophers in antiquity. A partial list of Hypatia's works are:

A commentary on the 13-volume *Arithmetica* by Diophantus.

A commentary on the *Conics* of Apollonius of Perga.

She edited the existing version of Ptolemy's *Almagest*. "Until recently scholars thought that Hypatia revised Theon's commentary on *Almagest*. The view was based on the title of the commentary on the third book of *Almagest*, which read: "Commentary by Theon of Alexandria on Book III of Ptolemy's *Almagest*, edition revised by my daughter Hypatia, the philosopher." Cameron, who analyzed Theon's titles for other books of *Almagest* and for other scholarly texts of late antiquity, concludes that Hypatia corrected not her father's commentary but the text of *Almagest* itself. Thus, the extant text of *Almagest* could have been prepared, at least partly, by Hypatia".

Edited her father's commentary on Euclid's *Elements*.

She wrote a text "The *Astronomical Canon*". (Either a new edition of Ptolemy's *Handy Tables* or commentary on the aforementioned *Almagest*.)

Her contributions to technology are reputed to include the invention of the hydrometer, used to determine the relative density (or specific gravity) of liquids.

2.3 Audre Lorde

2.3.1 Profession: Activist, Librarian, Poet, Novelist Essayist,

Audre Lorde was a Caribbean-American writer, radical feminist, womanist, lesbian, and civil rights activist. One of her most notable efforts being her activist work with Afro-German women in the 1980s. Her identity as a black lesbian gave her work a novel perspective and put her in a unique position to speak on issues surrounding civil rights, feminism, and oppression. Her work gained both wide acclaim and wide crit.

2.3.2 Works:

(Audre Lorde) Her poems and prose largely deal with issues related to civil rights, feminism, and the exploration of black female identity. In relation to non-intersectional feminism in the United States, Lorde famously said, "Those of us who stand outside the circle of this society's definition of acceptable women; those of us who have been forged in the crucibles of difference -- those of us who are poor, who are lesbians, who are Black, who are older -- know that survival is not an academic skill. It is learning how to take our differences and make them strengths. For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change. And this fact is only threatening to those women who still define the master's house as their only source of support."

2.4 Beverly Cleary

2.4.1 Profession: Librarian, Author, Writer

Springer, Karen (2006) Beverly Cleary is an American author of more than 30 books for young adults and children. One of America's most successful writers of children's literature, she has sold 91 million copies of her

books worldwide. Some of her best-known characters are Henry Huggins, Ribsby, Beatrice Quimby, her sister Ramona Quimby, and Ralph S. Mouse. She won the 1981 National Book Award for *Ramona and Her Mother* and the 1984 Newbery Medal for *Dear Mr Henshaw*.

2.5 Andre Alice Norton

2.5.1 Profession: Librarian, Author

Andre Alice Norton was an American writer of science fiction and fantasy with some works of historical fiction and contemporary fiction. She wrote primarily under the pen name Andre Norton, but also under Andrew North and Allen Weston. She was the first woman to be Gandalf Grand Master of Fantasy, first to be SFWA Grand Master, and first inducted into the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame.

2.6 Margaret Mahy

2.6.1 Profession: Librarian, Novelist, Author, Writer

(Hans Christian) Margaret Mahy, ONZ was a New Zealand author of children's and young adult books. Many of her story plots have strong supernatural elements but her writing concentrates on the themes of human relationships and growing up. She wrote more than 100 picture books, 40 novels and 20 collections of short stories. At her death, she was one of thirty writers to win the biennial, International Hans Christian Andersen Medal for her "lasting contribution to children's literature". (*Hans Christian Andersen Awards*)

Among her children books, *A Lion in the Meadow* and *The Seven Chinese Brothers* and *The Man Whose Mother was a Pirate* are considered national classics. Her novels have been translated into German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Italian, Japanese, Catalan and Afrikaans.

2.7 Anne Tyler

2.7.1 Profession: Librarian, Novelist, Writer

Pollitt, Katha (1976) Anne Tyler is a Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist, short story writer, and literary critic. She has published 20 novels, the best known of which are *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*, *The Accidental Tourist*, and *Breathing Lessons*. All three were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction with *Breathing Lessons* winning the prize for 1989. She has also won the Janet Heidinger Kafak Prize, the Ambassador Book Award, and the National Book Critics Circle Award. In 2012 she was awarded The Sunday Times award for Literary Excellence.

2.8 Joanna Cole

2.8.1 Profession: Librarian, Novelist, Writer

(Cole, Joanna) Joanna Cole is an American writer of children's books. She is most famous as the author of *The Magic School Bus* series. She has written over 250 books ranging from her first book *Cockroaches* to her famous series *Magic School Bus*, which is illustrated by Bruce Degen. The *Magic School Bus* book has enjoyed continued success and has sold millions of copies in multiple languages. The most recent instalment in the series is *The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge* (2010).

2.9 Eleanor G. 'Ellie' Kinnaird

2.9.1 Profession: Librarian, Politician, Musician, Lawyer

Eleanor G. 'Ellie' Kinnaird is a North Carolina politician who served as a Democratic member of the North Carolina General Assembly representing the state's 23rd Senate district from January 1997 until her resignation in 2013. Her district included constituents in Orange and Chatham counties.

Kinnaird was mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina from 1987 to 1996; during that time, at one point Kinnaird served as Chair of the Appropriation committee on Justice and Public Safety, as chair of the Mental Health and Youth Service committee and as Vice-Chair of the Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee. In addition to these leadership positions and her other standing committee assignments on Appropriations/Base Budget, Finance, Health Care and Judiciary.

2.10 Elizabeth Janet Gray Vining

2.10.1 Profession: Librarian, Author, Writer

Chevailer, Tracy (1989) Elizabeth Janet Gray Vining, was an American professional librarian and author who tutored Emperor Akihito of Japan in English while he was crown prince. She was also a noted author whose children's book, *Adam of the Road*, received the Newbery Award in 1943.

From 1946 to 1950 during the Allied occupation of Japan after the war, Vining was selected by Emperor Hirohito himself (and not the United States government) to become a private tutor to Crown Prince Akihito.

In addition to teaching English-language skills, Vining introduced the children of the Imperial Household-Prince Hitachi and the Princesses Kazuko, Atsuo and Takako- to western values and culture.

2.11 Jessamyn Charity

2.11.1 Profession: Librarian

Jessamyn Charity West is an American librarian and blogger, best known as the creator of librarian.net and for her unconventional views on her profession. She is a former member of the American Library Association Council and was a moderator on MetaFilter.

3.0 Conclusion:

It can be concluded that despite different obstacles, hindrances and barriers against women to participate effectively, they have achieved greater height and are still advancing professionally. Whether the female librarians advance in their career or not is entirely a decision of the professional women themselves. The study found that professional boundaries cannot stop one to work and succeeded beyond the professional limitations and any obstacle perceived could be just a self-imposed boundaries and those who break can achieve success.

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