

Vi Moorhouse Retires

Friday, 07 September 2007 -



Vi Moorhouse, a long-time map cataloger in the Office of Bibliographic Control at GPO, retired on July 31, 2007 after nearly 40 years of service. Vi came to work at the U.S. Government Printing Office in 1968, committed to serve the public via the United States Government--a commitment strengthened by a desire to do something positive following the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy in 1968.

During her long career, Vi worked in almost every type of library, including public, school, university, and special libraries. Prior to coming to GPO, she cataloged documents at the New York Public Library, Reference Collection. Starting out at GPO cataloging general monographs from many different Federal agencies, Vi enthusiastically turned to map cataloging when maps were brought into the FDLP in the late 1970s. She cataloged all types of Federal maps, including serial maps and maps on microfiche and CD-ROM from the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Forest Service, the National Park Service and other Federal agencies. She pioneered many currently used cataloging practices for maps, while welcoming advances in technology and cataloging that allowed more timely access to these important materials. She also trained incoming librarians in map cataloging, and was generous in sharing her expertise and detailed knowledge of the nuances of Federal maps with others.

Vi contributed well over 100,000 bibliographic records to the Catalog of United States

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Government Publications and initiated many geographic name authority records in the Library of Congress authority database, providing a deep contribution to the field of geophysical data. Her prodigious talents were so valued that in 1998 she received the American Library Association's Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT) award, which is presented to librarians for outstanding service to map librarianship. Her articles on GPO map cataloging appeared regularly in the MAGERT publication "base line" and in GPO's "Administrative Notes" newsletter. She also wrote the chapter on the Superintendent of Documents classification of maps in GPO's Classification Manual. Vi was active in ALA's Government Documents Round Table and in the Cartographic Users Advisory Council, as well as in MAGERT.

Vi Moorhouse earned a B.A. in English and comparative literature at the University of California, Berkeley. She earned an M.L.S. while on a one-year fellowship at Berkeley. She also performed graduate level work in Far Eastern Regional studies, with an emphasis on China, at the University of the Pacific, and continued her academic studies in the computer and cartographic fields in Washington, DC.

Library Services and Content Management would like to thank Vi Moorhouse, one of the greatest assets in the Office of Bibliographic Control, for her significant contributions to the GPO and to the American public through her service in the Federal Depository Library Program. We wish her the best for her retirement.