

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Shannon Zachary, B.A., M.A., HND, M.L.I.S., librarian in the University Library, retired from active faculty status on June 29, 2023.

Shannon Zachary holds three master's degrees: an academic degree in comparative literature from the University of California, Berkeley, where she focused on the study of classical Greek and Latin, Russian, and English languages and literature (1975); a Higher National Diploma in Paper Conservation (Library and Archive Option) from the Camberwell School of Art and Crafts in London (later renamed the Camberwell College of Art) (1986); and a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Michigan (1993). With the U-M degree she received a Margaret Mann Award, which recognizes students who demonstrate exceptional academic ability and professional promise.

Her early career at the Cornell University Library focused on conservation treatment of rare and special collections. Soon after joining the U-M Library in 1994 she broadened her sphere of work to library preservation administration and management. From 2005 to her retirement in 2023 she was department head for the U-M Library's Department of Preservation and Conservation. Her major achievements have been in the areas of building the U-M Library preservation program, mentoring and teaching, professional service, and public outreach.

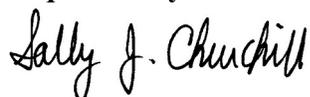
Especially noteworthy are her initiatives to expand the U-M Library's preservation program to include new formats the library collects: audiovisual recordings and digital files. She created the library's first digital preservation librarian position in 2009 and assembled a team to manage digitization of analog audiovisual formats for preservation. Still deeply committed to the long-term preservation of the library's traditional collections, she developed technical specifications for library binding, for exhibit spaces, and for the mechanical system for the storage vault for papyrus and manuscripts. She engaged in over ten years of research, planning, and writing to make the case for a purpose-built offsite print repository for the library. She was also involved in the early development of the Google Books mass digitization project, providing input on methodology for non-destructive scanning and conducting multiple surveys to review the condition of books before and after scanning. She received a U-M Workplace 2007 Outstanding Leadership Award.

Throughout her career at U-M Ms. Zachary has engaged in mentoring and teaching. In addition to ten years as an adjunct lecturer at the School of Information teaching various aspects of library preservation, she has personally supervised dozens of intern projects and accommodated others in the department. She has organized and taught many workshops on basic book repair for public and school libraries in Michigan and presented on preservation administration topics in a variety of venues for library professionals. She has encouraged the preservation of personal cultural heritage by organizing walk-in advice clinics, presenting guest lectures for libraries and historical societies, and responding to scores of requests for advice from the public each year.

Professionally, she served for ten years as managing editor for the *Book and Paper Group Annual*, one of the key resources in English for book and paper conservators to share their research and experience. The American Institute for Conservation honored her with the Rutherford John Gettens Award for outstanding service to the association in 2011 and an Honorary Membership for outstanding contributions to the field of conservation in 2023. Her own research and publications focus on topics of preservation management and history of the book.

The Regents now salute this distinguished librarian for her dedicated service by naming **Shannon Zachary, librarian emerita**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2023