

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement  
**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

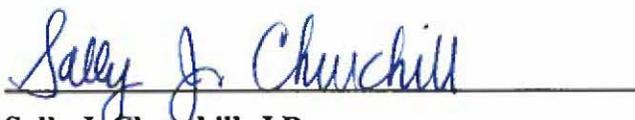
**Francis X. Blouin Jr., Ph.D.**, professor of information in the School of Information and professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2017.

Professor Blouin received his B.A. (1967) degree from the University of Notre Dame and his M.A. (1969) and Ph.D. (1978) degrees from the University of Minnesota. He joined the University of Michigan School of Information faculty as a lecturer in 1977, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1979, associate professor in 1983, and professor in 1989. Professor Blouin also held additional appointments in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts' Department of History. He held a number of key positions in the Bentley Historical Library, including acting assistant director (1974-75), associate archivist (1975-81), and director (1981-2013).

Professor Blouin played an instrumental role in the development of a program in archival administration that challenged the intellectual as well as administrative boundaries of the idea of archives. He explored an extensive array of archival issues, particularly from an international perspective. Professor Blouin led a collaborative endeavor to apply modern archival descriptive methods to improve intellectual access to the Vatican archives. The results of this project were published in *Vatican Archives: An Inventory and Guide to Historical Documentation of the Holy See* (1998). This project was funded by a series of grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Getty Grant Program, the Lilly Endowment, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. With Professor William G. Rosenberg, he led a year-long, interdisciplinary seminar titled "Archives, Documentation, and Institutions of Social Memory" in 2001. Through more than one hundred presentations, the seminar critically examined the idea of the archive as a historical source and its relationship to its administration and cultural context. The proceedings were published by the University of Michigan Press in 2006. He and Professor Rosenberg published their own study on the subject titled *Processing the Past: Contesting Authority in History and the Archives* in 2011. Professor Blouin generously shared his time and expertise on a number of important boards and commissions, most notably the Council on Library and Information Resources and the State of Michigan Historical Records Advisory Board.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Francis X. Blouin Jr., professor emeritus of information**.

**Requested by:**



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

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