

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
*Regents Communication*

Adopted by the Regents  
November 19, 2009

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Grace A. York, A.M.L.S.**, librarian in the University Library, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2009.

Ms. York received her B.A. degree from Wayne State University in 1968 and her A.M.L.S. degree from the University of Michigan in 1969. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant librarian in 1969, and was promoted to associate librarian in 1973, senior associate librarian in 1975, and librarian in 1999.

Ms. York was a pioneer in providing broad access to government documents in electronic format, long before the ubiquity of the World Wide Web. She envisioned the potential of the Internet in its earliest stages, beginning in 1986 when she served as a public contact for an experiment to bring the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Bulletin Board online. She began distributing free census data on the Internet in 1991, and was the first known person to provide U.S. congressional email addresses in a public directory (1994). She created and maintained the website, *Government Resources on the Web*, which received 2.2 million hits in its first year and reached 30-50 million hits per year as time progressed. The library's government documents website has won numerous awards and accolades over the years.

Ms. York's work has had national and international impact. She created model remote library services in support of University programs in Washington, was a reviewer for the public services section of the U.S. Government Printing Office's Federal Depository Manual, and was the first person to speak out about a proposal to start charging the public for government access on the Web. Ms. York's honors include the American Library Association's "Documents to the People Award" (1998), the Michigan Government Documents Roundtable's Lifetime Achievement Award (2003), the ALA GODORT James Bennett Childs Award for distinguished contributions to documents librarianship (2006), and the University of Michigan's University Librarian Achievement Award (2007).

The Regents now salute this distinguished librarian for her dedicated service by naming **Grace A. York librarian emerita**.

**Requested by:**



**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**November 2009**