

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

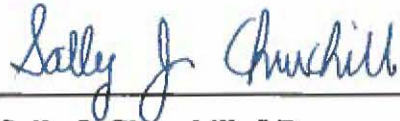
**Karen Markey, Ph.D.**, professor of information in the School of Information, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2018.

Professor Markey received her B.A. (1975) degree from The Johns Hopkins University and her M.L.S. (1977) and Ph.D. (1981) degrees from Syracuse University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1987, and was promoted to associate professor in 1990, and professor in 2002.

Professor Markey devoted her research, teaching, and service to improving user access to online search systems. Starting in the early 1980s, her research helped shape the design and development of online catalogs, the first search systems available to everyday people. In the mid-1980s, Professor Markey's Dewey Decimal Classification Online Project was the first to incorporate a library classification as a library user's tool in a search system. In the 1990s, her research on authority control was a precursor to today's do-you-mean prompts that divert users from their misspelled and incorrect keywords to corrected ones. Findings from her New Design for Subject Access to Online Catalogs research projects included search trees, the inspiration for today's ranked-retrievals algorithms that enable search systems to display the most relevant retrievals on top. Since 2000, Professor Markey's focus has been user education, using online learning tools to teach people how to find and evaluate information. As the principal investigator of the IMLS-sponsored BiblioBouts Project, she led a team that designed, developed, and evaluated an online social game that covertly taught undergraduate students how to conduct library research while they go about the business of completing their assigned papers. This work led to a Provost's Innovative Teaching Prize (2010) and a book titled *Designing Online Information Literacy Games Students Want to Play* (2014). Professor Markey also authored two editions of a major textbook, *Online Searching: A Guide to Finding Quality Information Effectively and Efficiently* (2015 and 2018), for teaching aspiring librarians how to master today's information-rich environment.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Karen Markey, professor emerita of information**.

**Requested by:**



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

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**May 2018**