

# Citation

B/N Douglas, Daphne



**o Daphne Rowena Douglas**  
Commander of the Order of Distinction,  
Professor Emeritus in Library Studies,  
Master of Library Science, Fellow and  
Associate of the Library Association.

*The Department of Library Studies, University of the West Indies, its alumni and the wider Jamaican library community honour and pay tribute to you for the outstanding contribution you have made to the field of library and information science in Jamaica, the wider Caribbean region and internationally.*

*You are indeed a remarkable woman – a rara avis – when we consider your intellectual virtuosity, the immense repertoire of knowledge and competencies you possess, your single-minded devotion to your chosen profession and the multifarious nature of your accomplishments.*

*Little did you or anyone else know that when you chose to become a librarian that this seemingly small step would indeed prove to be a giant leap forward for the recently introduced profession of librarianship in the Caribbean. This was confirmed years later when you became one of the foremost advocates for advancement of the profession in the region as you worked tirelessly to develop the quality of library education making it comparable to that offered in any developed country.*

*Your life can be seen in three distinct phases: your early years at the Jamaica Civil Service, the middle years at the Jamaica Library Service and your later years at the Department of Library Studies. In the Civil Service you worked in various capacities and demonstrated much foresight when you embarked on a career in librarianship. At the Jamaica Library Service you showed yourself to be an expert cataloguer, an astute and effective administrator in your role as Principal Librarian and an inspiring, dynamic training officer. It was at the Department of Library Studies that you, however, distinguished yourself most as you brought all your knowledge, competencies and experiences to bear on this job.*

*Wherever you laboured you distinguished yourself by your single-minded devotion to the task at hand, your painstaking concern for details, and your strong commitment to excellence. These qualities you not only exhibited but also sought to develop in others.*

You have demonstrated a natural gift for teaching as you successfully coached numerous students for the Library Association examinations. Your students bear testimony to that quality as they serve throughout the world in various fields.

Pre-University

Always open to new challenges and responsibilities, you seized the opportunity to study in Scandinavia and on your return you shared the new ideas and staff training methods learnt by conducting workshops. Your students gained much and developed a greater interest in and an enthusiasm for the profession.

As a confirmation of this innate teaching ability, at the third stage of your career you were called to serve in a capacity that again gave scope to your natural teaching abilities – to lecture in the newly formed Department of Library Studies at the University of the West Indies. You went on to prove that you were indeed an excellent teacher and administrator, as you not only taught a variety of courses with equal ability but also guided the department through various stages of development. Under your dynamic leadership the Department of Library Studies expanded its undergraduate courses and you successfully negotiated for and spear-headed the establishment of the Masters programme. Your skill at project writing attracted vast sums of funding from various sources for the Department as evidenced by the computer network.

Your superior intellectual ability goes without question as exemplified by the straight 'A's that you gained while pursuing the Masters of Library Science degree at the University of Pittsburgh. For this outstanding academic achievement you were elected to the Beta Phi Mu, The International Library Science Honour Society. Your mastery of the new technology further demonstrated your mental dexterity as you returned to the department to teach courses on automation and soon became the department's expert in this area.

The need for research programmes was also emphasized by you and this developed greater awareness of the value and importance of library and information science in the region. You have consistently provided leadership nationally and regionally by your service on committees, attendance and active involvement in regional and international conferences, participation in various advocacy groups to Caribbean governments and through your consultancy work for library development.

The crowning moment of your life in academia came in 1984 when you were appointed Professor of Library Studies, one of the only two females to hold a professorship on the Mona Campus. This was a signal honour acknowledging your outstanding achievements and superior academic ability.

You have also served the library profession well in other areas as you have given unstinting service to the Jamaica Library Association and the Association of Research and Institutional Libraries in the capacity of President as well as in other executive positions. You also served as Vice-Chairman for the National Council of Libraries, Archives and Documentation Services and over the years in one way or the other you have been inextricably involved in every organization, association or movement aimed at the advancement of libraries and librarianship in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean region.

University

*Your knowledge and expertise in the field of library and information science has been recognized internationally as reflected in the many invitations you have received to participate as consultant and expert in the Caribbean region and in other countries like Gabon, France, Finland and Senegal. An example of the high regard in which you are held by the international community was when you were invited to serve as International Coordinator for the International Federation for Documentation Education and Training Pre-conference Seminar held in Cuba in 1990.*

*Your many awards and honours attest to the quality of excellence that has always characterized your work. For your public service in the field of Librarianship the Government of Jamaica conferred on you Membership of the Order of Distinction, Commander Class (C.D.) in 1992. Other awards include: the Institute of Jamaica Centenary Medal for Meritorious Service in the Field of Education and Librarianship; the Liguanea Chapter of the Junior Chamber of Commerce Special Award for Outstanding Service to the Community; Woman of Distinction – National Award for Distinguished Service in Librarianship and Unbroken Service in Library Education during the United Nations Decade for Women 1976-85; and the Association of Librarians in Jamaica Library Service Award for Distinguished Service.*

*Tonight, we pay tribute to you and salute you for all these outstanding achievements. May the remaining years be filled with the joy and satisfaction which come from knowing that you have served your profession and your country well. As you pursue your personal goals at a more relaxed pace, may you experience God's richest blessings.*