



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT
CHAPEL HILL

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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
CB# 3360, 100 Manning Hall
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27599-3360

August 1, 1997

DR FRED W ROPER DEAN AND PROFESSOR
COLLEGE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA SC 29208

Dear Fred:

With great pleasure I accept your invitation to be the special guest speaker for the 1998 Dean's Lecture on Friday, April 3, 1998. I am honored to be asked and will do my best to prepare well for the 25th anniversary of your College. Unless there is some emergency, *deo volente*, both Bobbie Lee and I will be with you.

I hope your health is improving. We have both been concerned about you.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "E. G. Holley".

Edward G. Holley
William Rand Kenan, Jr. Professor Emeritus



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT
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April 8, 1998

DR FRED W ROPER, DEAN
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
DAVIS COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA SC 29208

Dear Fred:

Just a short note to thank you for your truly generous hospitality and for the remarkable program you planned to celebrate the 25th anniversary. No one could have wished for more. Everything went smoothly and I think the entire celebration was a great tribute to you and your colleagues.

I thank you again for having chosen me as your anniversary speaker. Bobbie Lee joins me in expressing her appreciation for your many kindnesses to her, especially the sandwich on Saturday evening. When I described what a great celebration we had, she regretted even more that she didn't attend. So the Holleys say many thanks for a wonderful celebration.

We had a wonderful time on Sunday. After the late night festivities and a rather long breakfast with our hosts at the house where we stayed, we journeyed to Anderson, leaving about 9:00 a.m. and arriving at Anderson just as church was over. We lunched there and then went to Seneca for the rest of the day and Monday.

On Tuesday we left early and went by Landis to visit with Sara Aull's sister, Mabel. We took her to lunch and then I went through some of the items that were in Sara's log cabin. There are a number of items which should go to the Southern Historical Collections and the North Carolina Collection. I brought some of the items with me and will go back some time this month to look more carefully at the others. There's a lot of material on the NC chapter of SLA.

I am enclosing the original of my speech as well as a copy of the revisions completed just today. Use any of this material as you see fit. I will include a copy of the original speech in the Holley papers here.

Again, you know how highly I think of you and your colleagues. You are really doing a great job for South Carolina, as well as you do with everything else in which you are involved. I rejoice in our friendship and thank you again for having been selected to give the 25th Anniversary Lecture.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'SL' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Enclosed original
also a revision
for internet purposes
You will
Ed

**SENDING OUT TRAINED LIBRARIANS AND
INFORMATION SPECIALISTS TO TAP THE
VAST RESOURCES OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE**

Edward G. Holley

**William Rand Kenan, Jr., Professor Emeritus
School of information and Library Science
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

April 3, 1998

First of all let me thank you for the opportunity to speak at the celebration of your twenty-fifth anniversary. It is indeed an honor that I do not take lightly, especially with colleagues whom I have known and admired for many years.

My connection with this School began shortly after I became Dean at the University of North Carolina. In 1972, Wayne Yenawine, your first dean,

and I had been fellow doctoral students at Illinois in the early nineteen-fifties. Wayne was very helpful to this neophyte from Middle Tennessee who thought it entirely appropriate that he should pursue a doctorate, though his actual experience related only to running the small college library at his Alma Mater, David Lipscomb College. Moreover, I had only recently received my master's degree in library science from Peabody College. I have always remembered the question from that remarkable woman, Frances Neel Cheney, when I told her I was going to Illinois to work on a doctorate in library science. She commented, "Why don't you get a doctorate in an honest-to-god subject like history or English?" My response to her was that I wanted to be an administrator and I thought that one needed

further study at the advanced level if he were to aspire to a directorship at a major library. Moreover, I didn't think the profession was going to continue to advance until it had more qualified researchers working on library problems.

Anyway, in Urbana, an Illinois doctoral student group had been meeting monthly to prepare each other for their preliminary exams. They invited this fledgling student to their meetings. Especially that first year, I learned more from them than I did from some of the faculty. [That happens, sometimes, though I'm sure never at USC or UNC]. Wayne Yenawine was the leader of the group as well as the head of the Circulation Department at the University of Illinois Library. He completed his degree in 1955, and then went on to head programs at Syracuse and

Louisville before he came to Columbia, South Carolina, to initiate the library science program here in the early seventies. His success is certainly well known to many of us.

By the time Wayne came to South Carolina, I had accepted the position of Dean at North Carolina. While Dr. Yenawine was mapping out a creative new master's degree program at USC, I began, rather cautiously (we do things cautiously in Chapel Hill), to lead the UNC faculty into a discussion of serious curricular reform. Wayne and I shared ideas with each other and actually brought each of the faculties (Chapel Hill and Columbia) to our respective campuses to talk about curricular reform and other matters related to library education. Wayne retired in 1976, and Bill Summers, who was on the original

faculty in 1971, succeeded him as Dean. The two schools kept in touch, though their specific approaches to the curricula were somewhat different. Bill left in 1985 to be Dean at Florida State University and do good deeds for FSU. In 1988 Bill also became ALA President. In 1986 Fred Roper, my Assistant Dean, left UNC for the deanship at USC. Fred's loss to Chapel Hill was a decided gain for the University of South Carolina as all of us in the profession know full well. He, too, became a president of one of our major professional associations, the Medical Library Association. I thank him and his colleagues for asking me to be one of your speakers.

In my remarks to you tonight, I have used the words of that Dean of Libraries and

Library/Information Science Schools, Louis Round Wilson, as our text. When UNC launched its School of Library Science with major help from the Carnegie Corporation in depression-ridden 1931, Dr. Wilson announced the goal of his program as “sending out trained librarians ... to tap the vast reservoirs of human knowledge”. [Let me repeat for emphasis] SENDING OUT TRAINED LIBRARIANS ... TO TAP THE VAST RESERVOIRS OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE. That happy phrase, I believe, has remained constant at the University of North Carolina and the University of South Carolina despite the influx of technology and the exuberance of the technocrats among us. We need only modify Dean Wilson’s phrase slightly to include new information specialists in our midst.

And what is a better example for the rest of our schools than the creative and innovative approaches of your own School, at the University of South Carolina, has accomplished in recent years? You have quietly and carefully launched your programs in the state of South Carolina and in three other states. You have been unafraid to innovate, to make the best use of television technology, and have ensured that your master's degree program on the campus, in the state, and in other states is second to none.

I have followed your School with interest since those early days when we were working together to improve the important role that library and information science education has provided, in a university context, with first-rate faculty and students. The results are clear; just look at their contributions

to our professional literature and at their involvement in our professional associations. I invite you especially to look at this School's web pages in the prelude to this celebration today. I laud not only the faculty's record of achievement but also their sense of humor. The two do not always go together in academia. Most of us would agree that scholarship and teaching do not have to be cheerless.

Your school has enjoyed strong support from the administration, the librarians in the state, and from your initial faculty choices, of whom some are still with us today, especially Martha Jane Zachert. An early person who also helped greatly was the late Augusta Baker, who came to USC after her retirement from the New York Public Library. Your

“Bakers’ Dozen” continues to honor her contributions.

Others came as junior faculty and have achieved their own national recognition. I assure you that for a School to achieve national attention first of all it must have a faculty and dean who are recognized by the profession. The first faculty, as well as those who have been added in recent years, are well regarded nationally. In the latter category I take some forgivable pride, since four faculty received their doctorates at the University of North Carolina! They have made and are making contributions both on campus and in the professional associations.

Not only has South Carolina's School of Library and Information Science sent out librarians to serve South Carolina, which is important for any professional school in a state university. It has also branched out into several other states which do not have library/information science programs. I have watched with admiration as you have launched these out of state programs in Georgia, West Virginia, and Maine. I was amazed when Dean Roper told me last year that 132 persons in Maine received their MLS degrees in formal ceremonies on the University of Maine campus!

My own view is that South Carolina's distance education program has done more for making first-rate library/information science education available - not only in this state but also in three other states -

than any other program in the country. I repeat: than any other program in the country. Your School ought to be the model for distant education programs in other states. [Certainly not enough, though, Dean Roper, to dispense with your own programs.] You shouldn't worry. They couldn't handle it anyway. You have quietly and carefully launched your programs in the state of South Carolina, unafraid to innovate, to make the best use of television technology, and to assure that your master's degree program on the campus, in the state, and in other states is first-rate. I have been privileged to know and work with many of your faculty, which includes no fewer than four of our doctoral graduates, I might add. They are in every way committed to first-rate teaching, to advancing the profession, and in assuring that their students, in

Dean Wilson's phrase, know how to "tap the vast reservoirs of human knowledge".

In conclusion, what do I see for the future of our profession and this School? Surely the emphasis upon Dean Wilson's statement is as relevant today as it was in 1931: "To send out trained librarians and information specialists to tap the vast reservoirs of human knowledge", to which I would add only "for the good of all humankind". The substance of any program is basic to what it does. The usefulness of programs such as yours can only continue to be more important in our information age and beyond.

The real question is not whether we will survive. It is how well we use the records of our past to build a viable future. I realize that this is difficult to do. But all worthwhile efforts are difficult – the nature of our

difficulties simply changes from time to time. But I believe that the journey this College of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina has taken is the solid foundation on which it and all of the rest of our schools must continue to build. You have been truly fortunate in your faculty, your deans, and your university administrators. And you have shown others the way of providing first-rate education in a technological world.

Therefore today I give you the challenge to continue and enhance what you have already done in your first quarter century. If you do this, you will not only continue; you will prevail. And I shall be cheering you on.

Thank you.