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MARIAN GOULD GALLAGHER: A TRIBUTE

J. Myron Jacobstein*

In these days of LEXIS and WESTLAW, fax machines, photocopiers, compact discs, and electronic library bibliographic networks, it is easy to forget what law libraries and legal research were like before these developments. Although these new devices are all helpful to legal research, it is doubtful that they would be as successful as they are were it not for the development of law libraries and law librarianship under such able leaders as Marian Gould Gallagher.

To put Marian Gallagher's career in perspective, it helps to recall the dramatic growth of law libraries¹ since she first became a law librarian in 1937. The advent of the New Deal, the resultant growth of administrative law, and the development of entirely new fields of law all placed tremendous pressure on law libraries and created an urgent need for trained law librarians. But Marian's contributions to the education of law librarians have been well documented elsewhere.²

To one like myself, who was not one of her students, Marian's other and perhaps less well known accomplishments are equally important. I first obtained a position as a law librarian in 1952. Listening to Marian at meetings of the American Association of Law Libraries, I quickly became aware of the importance of providing quality service to law library patrons. Marian's philosophy was unlike that of the legendary Harvard University librarian who was observed rushing across campus shouting to another professor, "I finally have all the books on the shelves except four and I'm going after those now!" Rather, Marian insisted that law libraries were for the user and not for the staff. Books and legal information were to be made available to anyone that needed it. This view of library service is usually taken for granted now—but it was Marian Gallagher who first taught me and many other law librarians the importance of such service.

Another of Marian's lesser known contributions was her devotion to the raising of law library standards. The rapid growth of library collections and new law schools caused the American Bar Association,

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1. See Jacobstein & Mersky, *Analysis of Law Library Growth Since 1907*, 75 LAW LIBR. J. 212 (1982).

2. Rosenow, *Marian Gallagher, Professional Librarian, Scholar, Teacher*, 56 WASH. L. REV. 361 (1981); Goldsmith, *History of the University of Washington Law Librarian Program*, 82 LAW LIBR. J. 239 (1990).

the Association of American Law Schools, and the American Association of Law Libraries to create committees on law library standards. I was a member of such committees from time to time, and perhaps only one who had to participate in such committee meetings can fully appreciate Marian's endurance in belonging to so many over the years. Law librarians, lawyers, law students and other users of law libraries benefit today from Marian's years of dedicated service to raising law library standards.

Marian Gallagher also made another important contribution to the law school world. While women have always been in the majority among librarians generally, this was not the case with law libraries. When Professor Gallagher became a law librarian, the directors of nearly all the major law libraries (including the University of Washington) were men. She was undoubtedly an important role model for other female law librarians, and it is encouraging to note that directors of law libraries are no longer almost exclusively male.³ It is, perhaps, only fitting that Marian Gould Gallagher, a pioneer in so many aspects of legal education and law librarianship, should have been, like so many other pioneers, from the Northwest, and particularly from the state of Washington.

I would like to conclude this tribute on a personal note. My active career as a law librarian is now over, but I include having had the opportunity of knowing Marian as high among the many reasons why I know I made the right career choice.

3. It was recently announced that Kathie Price, Professor of Law and Director of the Law Library at the University of Minnesota, was appointed Law Librarian of Congress—an appointment that would certainly have pleased Marian Gallagher.