

## **Oral History Interview with Debora Shaw (Shaw)**

**Interviewer: Ron Day, Indiana University, Nov. 19, 2015 (Day)**

>> Day: This is November 19th, 2015 at the Department of Information and Library Science, Indiana University at Bloomington, interviewing Debora 'Ralf' Shaw, who was the associate dean, dean, departmental Chair, and is now emeritus professor, from when it was the School of Library and Information Science and then became, as now, the Department of Information and Library Science. Ralf, on behalf of the ASIST Oral History Project thank you for doing this.

>> Shaw: Thanks, Ron.

>> Day: A pleasure. So following the chronology that you gave me, why don't you describe a little bit of your family background? You come from a family of librarians, I understand.

>> Shaw: My grandfather, my father's father, was a librarian. His father was a chemist, who gave my grandfather his middle name, Bunsen, after the guy who invented the Bunsen burner. His full name was Charles Bunsen Shaw. One of his claims to fame was that right after the end of World War II he went to China to assess the state of the books and college libraries in China. His full-time job was as Librarian at Swarthmore College outside of Philadelphia. In the summers when Swarthmore was closed he went to Ann Arbor, Michigan to teach in the library school there, where I guess you could say he was infamous. One of my first jobs after I graduated from library school was in Indiana, where I went around the state and met lots of librarians. We were helping them to convert to online cataloging. I remember running into one person who at that time was close to retirement, but he remembered having taken a class from my grandfather. One of the questions that was posed in his humanities reference course (you might want to use this for your students), was which foot of Lord Byron's was his club foot? The correct answer to that question is no one knows, but it really sent students all over the library trying to find an answer. This former student, to his retirement days, remembered how difficult that question was; that was his recollection of my grandfather.

>> Day: Do you know where your grandfather went in China?

>> Shaw: I don't know for sure, I know that he went to a Sun Yat Sen Memorial because there's a picture of him there. I also have a part of a scroll that was given to him and a couple things. But, essentially, what he found was that there were not a lot of books and there was not a lot of printing because all the printing presses had been melted down to make guns. This was just before the communists came to power and the people he had been meeting with were all not in power very long after he left.

>> Day: Did he go with the State Department?

>> Shaw: It was the United Board for Christian Colleges in China who invited him to make this trip.

>> Day: And do you know anything more? Were they part of a general overseas reconstruction effort?

>> Shaw: I'm not sure, I know that they were - I mean they probably figured as they do nowadays that there are lots of people in China so, therefore, we should go find out what's happening or something like that. My grandfather had been a bibliographer and created a standard list, a bibliography called *Books for College Libraries*, which was probably what qualified him to go look at college libraries in China and assess their collections, because he had written a book about that. He also taught classes at Columbia University. One of his students there was named Ralph Shapiro, who later changed his name to Ralph Shaw. My grandmother always insisted that he changed his last name because of my grandfather's influence. I'm not so sure that's true but it makes a nice story. But that's how there's a famous Ralph Shaw, so when I was starting out in the field people remembered my name because they remembered "the real Ralph Shaw" as we called him.

>> Day: How did you get the nickname of 'Ralf'?

>> Shaw: Well, there are various stories about that, aren't there? I always tell students that it came from a television show and then I make them try to figure out which one it was. I think that's a good reference question. But, actually, when I was in junior high and high school there was a Smothers Brothers half-hour sitcom on television, before they had the famous or sort of famous comedy hour. The sitcom included Tommy Smothers as a probationary angel and he came back to make life difficult for his brother, Dicky Smothers. My sister did a really good imitation of Tommy Smothers. In the show Tommy Smothers had an angel supervisor boss named Ralph, so I decided if she was going to be Tommy Smothers I would be Ralph. In our family I'm still called Ralf and she's still called Smuts, which is short for Smothers.

>> Day: Well, that's ...

>> Shaw: Yes, now that that's clear, nobody will have a tough time any more on that reference question.

>> Day: Yes, so you went to the University of Michigan library school?

>> Shaw: Yes - my grandfather had taught in the summers at the University of Michigan, and I knew that there was such a thing as being a librarian because my grandfather had been a librarian. My father always said he would never be a librarian because he didn't want to be that poor. Nowadays whenever I see students whose mother or father was a librarian I'm always impressed that librarian salaries have gone up a lot since the days when my grandfather was a librarian. Anyway my undergraduate degree was at the University of Michigan, so I knew that there was such a thing as a library school and, in fact, I had gone occasionally to visit my grandparents in Ann Arbor when I was a little kid. So I walked over there and said I'd like to go to library school and they admitted me.

>> Day: Did you grow up in Ann Arbor?

>> Shaw: I grew up in Grand Rapids or outside of Grand Rapids on the west side of the state, so going to Ann Arbor was a pretty big deal and a memorable event from my childhood.

>> Day: What did your mother and father do?

>> Shaw: My father grew up in Swarthmore and eventually he served in World War II and afterward he went to law school at the University of Michigan. My mother was born in western Michigan, her family roots are there. During World War II she and her family lived outside of Philadelphia and she also went to school at Swarthmore, so that's how my parents met. When my dad finished law school and was going to set up to be a lawyer for real they decided to go to west Michigan where there was some family connection and something to build on, so that's why I grew up in western Michigan.

>> Day: Your undergrad studies?

>> Shaw: History of ideas major.

>> Day: Which ideas were you a historian of?

>> Shaw: Well, it turned out that could be just about anything. It was kind of a political philosophy major and it didn't prepare you for much of anything except going to graduate school, but when I applied to library school they thought that was okay.

>> Day: Why did you decide to go to the library school?

>> Shaw: I knew there was such a thing and I couldn't figure out any other job to get.

>> Day: That's a good reason.

>> Shaw: Yes, it turned out I liked it well enough. While I was there, well, there were several faculty that were memorable, but let's just stick with Charles Davis, who is now my husband but at the time was not. In one of the introductory classes that I took he handed back my paper with a note about the death of Ralph Shaw, the first Ralph Shaw. I appreciated it as an attempt at humor anyway, talking about my death with my homework assignment. Chuck was the advisor to the student chapter of ASIS, and at that time Ralph Shaw had been sort of a proponent of library automation. There were others, Jessie Shera for example, who were opposed to library automation, and so we jumped into the middle of the "is automation good or bad" discussion in our class.

>> Day: What was the class with Chuck?

>> Shaw: The first one was Introduction to Information Science and it was a required course. Then there was an advanced course on Computer Programming for Libraries or something like

that, where we learned PL/1, the programming language and felt like we really knew a lot about automation after having figured out how to humble ourselves before the computers and make punched cards and submit programs.

>> Day: How did you feel about the automation?

>> Shaw: I thought it was a good idea, yes. My grandfather died when I was 10. I know now, having read what he had written, that he would not have approved of it at all. His Ph.D. was in English and he was definitely a humanities kind of person and didn't approve of that newfangled stuff. But he didn't know what I was doing, so ...

>> Day: Tension at that time between you two and what was it about?

>> Shaw: I think that it was just sort of a sense that if you knew what these computers were doing you'd have a better chance of getting a job. It was as tight a job market at that time as it is now. They used to do reports about how few job openings there were compared to how many people were interviewing at ALA. Actually my first real job, at Youngstown State in Ohio, I got because of having been involved in the ASIS Student Chapter. I took two years to get through the library science program because I had a student scholarship, work study kind of program. One year our student chapter came here to IU and saw all kinds of fancy things, the Chemical Information Center and the Kinsey Institute and so on. The other year we went to Columbus, Ohio where we saw Chemical Abstracts Service, Ohio State University with their automation system, and OCLC. At that time OCLC was just Ohio College Library Center, so when I interviewed for the job at Youngstown State they were really surprised that somebody from out of state knew what OCLC was. That plus the fact that I had worked with microforms as a student assistant were the things that got me the job I think. So should I talk about Ohio?

>> Day: Yes.

>> Shaw: Yes, Youngstown is not the most glamorous place in the world, but I was Assistant Serials Librarian, which sounded pretty fancy to me. During that time that I was there, which is just three years I guess, we had the experience of building a new library building and moving into it. The microforms for which I was primarily responsible, had this problem that the film that it was printed on was Kalvar - it emitted acid and then that rusted out the cabinets in which the things were stored. The people who were there before me didn't, couldn't figure out what was going on, they just noticed that the cabinets were getting rusty. But since I had had a class in reprography at the University of Michigan ...

>> Day: What's that?

>> Shaw: That's basically reproduction techniques, but University Microfilms was in Ann Arbor and one of the specialized advanced classes we had was taught by E. Stevens Rice from University Microfilms. He talked about how wonderful University Microfilms films were and then there were these lower grade things that were done on this acid-producing film - and we really should not accept such things in our future. So I was able to walk in there and say "we will not accept such things" and get them to give us new copies of stuff on more reliable film. Anyway it made it look like I knew what I was doing.

>> Day: What were you microfilming?

>> Shaw: We were just purchasing microfilms publications like the New York Times and then we would store them and make them available. And it really does make a difference at a place like Youngstown State, a good enough university, but not a research one level school. We had a faculty member who was very interested in Native American studies, and we had a strong microfilm collection that supported his students because that was the only way they were going to get a chance to look at things that might be of interest to them as undergraduates or even master's students.

>> Day: What was that collection?

>> Shaw: It was a specialized collection and I don't remember the publisher of it, but it had some very impressive photographs. I remember, we got to look at them, too. After having been an officer in the ASIS Student Chapter, when I was a student, when I went to Youngstown I figured I should be involved in ASIS, as well. The local Chapter was basically centered in Cleveland, so my commitment was whenever they had meetings I would drive from Youngstown to Cleveland, which is not a terribly long distance, but it impressed a lot of the senior people in ASIS that I was willing to do that. One of the people, Mary Berger, who was later an ASIS President, arranged for me to get an award one year for this, it was the long distance award for the Northern Ohio Chapter of ASIS. Because her company produced them, she gave me one of those lane markers that you see along the highway. So that was my first award ever from ASIS.

>> Day: In the mid '70s what was your impression of ASIS as a young woman at that time?

>> Shaw: I thought it was where I had a chance to think about things that were much more, much broader in scope than what I was thinking and faced with just in the library where I was working. Some of the meetings that we had were - we had one that was about programming, well actually flow charting, and that was kind of redundant because I had already done that in school. But then we had others - we had chances to meet with people who worked in special libraries, for example, that I found really interesting. And I was able to go to the 1975 Midyear Meeting because the theme of the meeting was microforms and data processing; because it said "microforms" and that was in my job title they let me go all the way out to Portland, which I thought was a great thing. It actually hadn't occurred to me that they wouldn't let me go, but when we said "we'll let you go because it's in your job title," I was relieved. While I was at Portland they told us that the 1975 Annual Meeting was going to be in Boston. When I went to the Annual Meeting I was paying enough attention to notice that there was going to be something called SIG/CON. So I was very lucky to get to go to the first ever SIG/CON session at that Annual Meeting.

>> Day: So ASIS at that time was heavily involved still in documentation activities in libraries?

>> Shaw: Well, I think for a lot of my professional life there were a lot of librarians who were

involved in ASIS and they - Odette Shepherd, who was the serials librarian here at IU, actually said it best, she said, "that's where I go to find out the things that I'm going to be thinking about two years from now."

>> Day: I see.

>> Shaw: So a lot of the technologies you'd find out about first from the special libraries people or from the vendors who were going to be selling things and who would come to ASIS to talk to potential clients and potential clients would attend to find out what the potential technology would be.

>> Day: So it was still at that time maybe a professional base?

>> Shaw: Definitely, yes, and a lot of connections with the Special Libraries Association that we don't see nearly as much now.

>> Day: No, not now, we're different.

>> Shaw: One of the things we did was we were going to have a joint conference. Ohio was stratified, there were three chapters: northern, central, and southern Ohio. We decided we would have a joint meeting of all three of us. I remember being on the planning committee for that, which involved more travel, but another chance to get out and do things. Another time a group of us went to the ASIS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. one weekend because Headquarters was in terrible economic straits. They had lots of bills that they hadn't sent out because they didn't have staff to send out the bills and so we went there and typed out bills. Some of them could type a lot better than I could, but anyway I was there.

>> Day: So the members had to do it themselves?

>> Shaw: Well, a small cadre of us volunteered to go do it, and while we were there the staff of Headquarters put us up in their homes. It was probably an odd thing if you think about it now, but that was what my betters decided we would do and so I was excited to get to go along and do it.

>> Day: Were the meetings held in universities at that time?

>> Shaw: The midyear meetings were held at universities. So the one that I went to in Portland, that first one that I went to was at a university, and then the annual meeting was held at the Boston Sheraton I'm pretty sure. It was a brand-new hotel. Several years later they held the meeting at the same hotel. I remembered it because when it was brand-new the elevators were not terribly reliable, so one of the things that we got to think about was with whom we'd want be stuck in an elevator. My friends and I were hoping it was some famous person in the society.

>> Day: That's a nice thought. And so then, where are we now?

>> Shaw: Okay, so that kind of wraps up Ohio, I guess.

>> Day: And on to Indiana?

>> Shaw: Yes, in 1976 I moved from Youngstown, Ohio to Indianapolis for a job - I seemed to keep getting jobs because somebody thinks that I can do something that I really can't. At Youngstown State I was a serials and microforms librarian; when I went there I didn't know much about serials, but something about microforms. Now they thought I knew something about serials and so INCOLSA, the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority, hired me because they were about to embark on a project of taking catalog information about all the serials, journals, holdings in the state of Indiana and putting that into a computer. There was a database of sorts: people at Purdue University had compiled a union list of serials for the state maybe 10 years before, maybe not even that much. The State Library insisted that in order to have a really good, secure copy of it they had to print it all out on computer punched cards so we had that plus printed catalogs, neither of which had been updated. Our job was to take that information and first to verify the holdings and then to improve the cataloging records. So they thought because I'd worked with serials I knew how to catalog serials, which was not true, but at least it got me a job and got me out of Ohio and into Indiana.

>> Day: Well, can you describe a little bit what that is for those who don't know, such as myself, what the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority was and maybe still is?

>> Shaw: Yes, it was - at the time there were several state or regional associations that were intended to be local or regional brokers for people who wanted OCLC access in their libraries. OCLC started out as the \*Ohio\* \*College\* Library Center. When other libraries would ask "could you let us in?" OCLC kind of said, well, we can't - we could let you in, but we can't support you, we can't give you the training that you would need. So the state of Indiana, the college and university libraries in particular and some of the large public libraries said we'll go together and make this happen. INCOLSA was the organization set up to do that, and they were smart I think to hire Barbara Evans Markuson to be the Executive Director for INCOLSA. She had been at the Library of Congress, where she had been involved in setting up the MARC (MACHine Readable Cataloging) standards. She was very knowledgeable about the technical questions but also pretty adept at political things, as well. There was a staff of six or something like that with her as our head; we sort of took on a huge mission of trying to help everybody in Indiana get online cataloging for their libraries.

>> Day: That wouldn't have been common at that time?

>> Shaw: Right, yes, so we were - this was the first time that many of them had even had a computer in the library and it was always behind closed doors, it was in the back room where the cataloging was done. So I did some, not a lot, of going out to the institutions and helping them figure out how they wanted their catalog cards to appear when they got them and then how to enter new records into the database and things like that.

>> Day: That's very interesting. How did they find you?

>> Shaw: INCOLSA?

>> Day: Yes, did INCOLSA find you or did you find them or?

>> Shaw: I don't know, isn't that weird? I do remember the phone call from them saying they wanted me to come and interview, and I assume I had applied for the job. I remember when I came to Indianapolis for the interview that Barbara Markuson, herself, came out and picked me up at the airport. It was hot and humid, would you believe that? And while I was there for the first several months I didn't actually have a place to live in Indianapolis, I lived with Barbara and Stan Markuson in their house. They had a big house on Meridian Avenue right across the street from the Governor's Mansion. I thought I was living in a lap of luxury, it was pretty nice.

>> Day: And you were the Indiana ASIS Chair?

>> Shaw: That's right. So finally having climbed the heights of ASIS in various forms I got to be Chair of the Indiana Chapter. I had been the Chapter Newsletter Editor before that, which was an interesting experience, back in the days when you had to type things and publish them, print them, and mail them and all those glorious parts of having a newsletter. So I'd done that, and they said, well, okay, you can be the Chair of the Chapter. The 1979 Midyear Meeting was in Banff, Alberta. Several months in advance, I was making announcements at a local chapter meeting and I stood up in front of people and started unbuttoning my shirt. Larry Woods, one of my colleagues, was in the audience and he was kind of worried about what I was going to do. But I took off my shirt and I had on a Canadian flag T-shirt underneath and that was my advertisement for people to go to Banff. Eventually Larry Woods, Mark Wilson, who was a friend from the University of Michigan, and I took a train from Windsor Ontario to Banff, which was a long, long train ride.

>> Day: Long train ride.

>> Shaw: Yes, and back, we came back, as well. But that was a very spectacular place to have a midyear meeting, one of the first that wasn't at a college, it was at the Banff Springs Hotel. That was the first time I had a paper to present at the meeting - it was about library collection overlap in the state of Indiana. I did a really terrible job of presenting the paper. In those days and still today the proceedings are published in advance so that everybody has a copy of the paper. I foolishly believed that everybody had read my paper, and so I didn't have to talk about it and tell them what it said. The only thing I remember about my talk was that I had a map, which was basically an outline of North America and the only thing that was filled in was the state of Indiana. I told the audience that was to orient them to where Indiana was in North America.

>> Day: That's a good idea.

>> Shaw: Yes, well, they needed a little more content than that to the presentation.

>> Day: All right, and what was the paper on again?

>> Shaw: Overlap of library collections, which turned out to be the topic for my dissertation.

>> Day: Now after you climbed the heights of ASIS ...

>> Shaw: Yes.

>> Day: ... you came over to Indiana University in '78?

>> Shaw: That's right. So I had been working at INCOLSA, the library cooperative for the state of Indiana, and in 1978, well actually earlier than that, I guess probably in 1977 the Indiana University Libraries had funding to do a special project where they re-cataloged all their serials and brought their holdings up-to-date on OCLC. Elaine Woods had been hired to lead that project and I came in as her second in command because now I knew so much about serials. And then after a while Elaine left and went back to Washington, D.C. where she was a consultant and they put me in charge of the project. But even before I came to IU as an employee, I started in the doctoral program. I was still living in Indianapolis, so I took some classes here [Bloomington] and then in the winter semester I started on my required statistics classes up in Indianapolis.

>> Day: So you took it in a different department?

>> Shaw: Yes, it was an Education Department statistics class. And then halfway through the winter semester I got the job in Bloomington and moved down here, so I ended up commuting back to Indianapolis to finish my statistics class.

>> Day: Can you talk about the people who were here? And you were here for five years as a student, so talk about your experience in Indiana University in Bloomington.

>> Shaw: When I came, from the very first time you registered you had to put down your expected graduation date and I put down 1984 because I figured that would be so Orwellian. I figured that would be a real stroke of genius, to pick a memorable date like that and it turned out I didn't - I graduated in December of 1983. When I came Bernie Fry was the dean of the Graduate Library School and I worked for him for a couple semesters as his assistant. When I first came I was working for the IU Libraries serials project and was a full time employee. After that ended I worked for Bernie for a while as a grad assistant helping him keep track of the various papers that were submitted for publication. He was responsible as editor for two journals: *Information Storage and Retrieval* and *Government Information Quarterly*. I didn't help as much with GIQ, but more with IS&R. When Bernie stepped down as dean, Herb White took over. Herb was also somebody I knew and worked with. He taught the Information in Science and Technology class that I took while I was here. About the time Herb became dean we changed the name of the school from Graduate Library School to School of Library and Information Science. The students had a really great saying. Back in those days there was a kind of beer called Schlitz and their motto was "when you're out of Schlitz you're out of beer." After our school's name change, the students wrote on the blackboard "when you're out of SLIS you're out of here." You can tell that they were really taken with the name of the school. The staff in the school didn't like

it. They used to be able to just answer the phone and say GLS and everybody knew what that was; now they had to say this new, long name, so they were really upset with us for changing the name of the school. Bernie had been the last President of American Documentation Institute because in 1968 it became the American Society for Information Science. Herb was President of ASIS in 1974. When I would go to ASIS meetings, well, it still is the case, you see people with their name tags and lots of ribbons showing their offices. I used to tell Herb that I was very envious of all of his ribbons and offered to do my best to try to earn ribbons, as well. Allan Pratt was another faculty member here at IU then. He was sort of the young whippersnapper, although I didn't know it at the time, but he was junior to some of the others. He really pushed SLIS to get our first microcomputer; there was a picture in the SLIS Alumni Newsletter of Al Pratt showing a student how to use the microcomputer and the student is me - the back of me - learning.

>> Day: What did you use it for?

>> Shaw: I think it could, you could write programs in BASIC. Al Pratt could write lots of really impressive programs in BASIC. I don't remember that it did much beyond that.

>> Day: Did it have a small screen?

>> Shaw: It was a computer, as I recall it was a Compaq computer, so it had a little screen and, yes, the machine was slightly larger, but the screen was right in there.

>> Day: Green screen?

>> Shaw: Yes, that's the one. But before that when I was a student, when I was doing my more advanced statistics classes and some of the programming classes, we would type everything on punched cards, take them over to where the card reader was, which was in the HPER Building (now the School of Public Health). The computer was there because it generated so much heat that they needed the university swimming pool to dissipate the heat.

>> Day: Yes.

>> Shaw: But in the summer when the swimming pool was already plenty warm the computer would sometimes go down.

>> Day: Oh, really, that's interesting.

>> Shaw: So we thought the lap of luxury would be if we could have a card reader up here in this building so that we didn't have to go all the way down that hill for the card reader.

>> Day: A microcomputer.

>> Shaw: That's right, and then we got a microcomputer, and then we got dial-up terminals and all kinds of fancy things. I should mention Professor David Kaser also. He was on my dissertation committee. In fact, David was probably closest to my grandfather in terms of librarianship. He was an academic library director and had an interest in research. He had

published quite a bit, and was a true gentleman, a lovely person. He and Herb White were both on my advisory and research committees. I remember that they asked me a question during my qualifying exams and they each had different opinions about the correct answer. I very wisely just let them talk about their differences as I sat there until they finished - that was one of my easier exam questions. I thought of that just the other day when Jim Mullins talked about how he had David Kaser and somebody else on his committee who disagreed with each other and he felt that he needed to somehow adjudicate between them. I never felt that I needed to do that, I just laid low.

>> Day: Jim Mullins is now the Dean of Libraries at Purdue?

>> Shaw: Right.

>> Day: When was he here?

>> Shaw: I don't remember running into him very much. I think he finished most of his course work before I started and then he was off elsewhere doing his dissertation by the time I was hanging around here.

>> Day: Were there many faculty and women Ph.D. students by that time?

>> Shaw: There were lots of women in the doctoral program. At the time there was a gathering for male faculty members and male doctoral students, they would get together on Friday afternoons and play poker and do whatever else needed doing. We decided this wasn't fair, so they developed something they called Friday Afternoon Seminar, which was slightly more scholarly and involved everybody. Usually there was some food involved, but there was also somebody talking about something that was meaningful. I remember one of them was a presentation by David Kaser. Alvin Schrader, a doctoral student admitted at the same time I was, had done something that was contrary to the way David Kaser thought things should be done. Poor Dr. Kaser got into a bit of a mess by saying something about this work that he didn't approve of, not realizing Alvin was right there in the room. But, yes, so they were sort of scholarly and people talked about research and stuff at those Friday Afternoon Seminars.

>> Day: Was there tension, at all, between the library faculty and the information science faculty or was it really information science that was more like library automation?

>> Shaw: I think the tensions had to do with personality than specific differences between information and library science. The women faculty at the time were strong. Judy Serebnick, very much a strong person with her primary research area of intellectual freedom, was quite willing to talk about information science kinds of issues. While I was here both Marcy Murphy and Shirley Fitzgibbons came to the faculty and both had very strong opinions about things. Marcy was the Chair of my doctoral research committee. I was the first person whose committee she chaired, which I didn't realize at the time was so much to ask of her, but having her in her first time as chair and with David Kaser on my committee was quite a bit. Monina Abrera was

here, too, she was a longtime faculty member. So, yes, there was fair representation and historically there had always been a pretty good number of women. The first doctoral graduate was a woman from Thailand, so there was definitely a history of having women in the program.

>> Day: Was the program strong on campus? I mean it was a pretty stable program?

>> Shaw: I think, yes. I don't know how it was perceived when Bernie Fry was dean. I'm sure that when Herb White was dean he had a much more engaging style and I know he kind of - we punched above our weight probably at that point. One of the other jobs that I had while I was a student here was working in the School of HPER, Health, Physical Education and Recreation. They had a project - that's really interesting - they had a really poor library to support their school and one of the associated faculty members decided that he would get lots of journals to come into the library by creating an index to the literature of the field. The journals would be sent to him for his index, then he could give them to the library, so all he had to do was create this index. My job as a student was to do data entry. I would go over to that building and sit in a closet-like space and type things into their computer system for the Bibliographic Index to Health Education Periodicals or BIHEP. While I was a doctoral student I had done some work on library collection overlap, some of it with Chuck Davis that eventually led to a paper in the *Journal of the American Society of Information Science*. We were looking at whether the extent of collection overlap relates to the size of the collections. We said that it tends to correlate up to a certain point. We were dealing with samples, not complete databases of all holdings as one can today. It was a foray into some statistics and also the whole joy of journal publication.

>> Day: So you were in contact with Chuck then?

>> Shaw: Yes, from time to time we were in touch, yes.

>> Day: He was where then?

>> Shaw: He was in Edmonton, Alberta.

I guess another first for that period was my first actual presentation at a SIG/CON session. Back in 1975 I had figured out that there was such a thing and by 1981, after having been a loyal member of SIG/CON, I got to actually present a paper. Every member of ASIST is a member of SIG/CON. And SIG/CON stands for, it's a con because it looks like it's a special interest group that will have a scholarly session, but actually it's held in the evening, with an open bar, and people present work that's not truly - well, it's truly groundbreaking, but it's not quite as intellectual as one might think. So there was one person who had done about information seeking behavior of twins separated at birth or studies ...

>> Day: Comedy.

>> Shaw: Yes, it's a comedy thing - studies of titular colonicity and so on. So my paper was looking at the impact of the themes that ASIS would choose for their meetings and giving a numeric value to each of the meeting themes, which was determined by the weight that that phrase would have if it were played on a Scrabble board. And then finding that that actually correlated with the year end closing of the stock market, so that the higher the Scrabble weight

the higher the stock market. So, obviously, ASIS should choose its national meeting theme with care because if you chose something that was too low level you wouldn't have a very good year for the stock market. That was my first SIG/CON contribution.

>> Day: What was ASIS like in the early '80s? Was it shifting still from documentary to information science or more or less what we call special library interests or...?

>> Shaw: Some of the people that I knew best were from the special library perspective, but I think there probably were more of the academics involved. But there still was a pretty strong influence from publishers, people from the publishing world still cared and came and contributed. Gerry Salton was a big name, anytime there was a talk by Gerry Salton that room would be packed, you had to sit on the floor if you wanted to hear what he had to say.

>> Day: And how about the school here? When people came out with a Ph.D. did they go into library director jobs or...?

>> Shaw: A lot of them did, a lot of them went into faculty jobs, but a lot of them went into library administration of one sort or another, yes.

>> Day: Where did you see yourself going?

>> Shaw: I thought what I wanted to do was to get a job where you worked in a university library and did research for the library, that's what I thought I would be doing.

>> Day: What type of research?

>> Shaw: Oh, I think Case Western or some place like that had some big library had somebody who did that. They looked at questions, I don't know you wouldn't really call it HCI, but like how to assess how much people are using of your library.

>> Day: In other words, influenced by operational research?

>> Shaw: Yes, that kind of thing, yes.

>> Day: And that was popular then.

>> Shaw: Yes, when I came here I told Herb White that my dissertation would be about inter-library loan and he thought that was ridiculous. He said that's such a small percentage of anything that libraries do, why would you care to do a dissertation about that? He didn't think that was a good idea.

>> Day: Well, because it's just such a small percentage ...

>> Shaw: Yes.

>> Day: So there wasn't anybody who came to see libraries outside of a very localized situation because of the physical nature and resources.

>> Shaw: Yes, I think that's true. Yes, I don't think there was anybody doing research that didn't involve libraries in some way. Yes, that's probably fair. But libraries are a pretty interesting place to try to take the technology that was present at that time and figure out how it works because it's so complex, the written word is so different from the numbers that people were crunching in their big machines. So it did give them plenty to think about.

>> Day: Yes. So anything else you'd like to say about your time at Indiana University as a doctoral student?

>> Shaw: No, I managed to pass fairly unscathed through the - I mean there were much trauma and people, you know, my fellow doctoral students had all kinds of problems and I didn't remember seeing any. I somehow managed to not get caught up in too much of that.

>> Day: What was that about?

>> Shaw: I don't remember, there was something or other where that they were going to go talk to the Dean of the Graduate School about something, and I don't even remember what it was but they were just convinced that there was something that needed to be done that wasn't being done here. I managed - I taught some classes, too. The first class I taught was when Al Pratt was on leave, I don't remember if it was a sabbatical or another leave, but I taught it in Room 033, the auditorium because he always taught his classes there, which was a very - not a very congenial atmosphere. And he always taught classes there because then he wouldn't have to teach as many because he could pack a whole bunch of people in and teach a required course there. So I remember that the first day that I told the class that I wasn't Al Pratt and I was going to try not to do a Pratt fall. Anyway it was a tough time, a tough first teaching assignment. I learned a lot from it, but it was - I'm glad I didn't have to repeat that.

Eventually, before I finished my dissertation I took a job at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis, so I went back to Indianapolis. I still lived in Bloomington and I commuted, so it was kind of interesting being in a car pool going up and back every day. I was Head of Library Automation is what they called it, we were trying to get an automated system for the State Library. It was an interesting job because in addition to sort of keeping track of what's in the library and what's been checked out and what's been returned, they also had the - they were responsible for the books on tape for the blind people of the state who cared to could get books on tape and then return them. I think they were cassette tapes. Then they would get other books back, but because the people who were getting the books couldn't read the catalog of what books were available the system had to keep track of what they had already had so that they wouldn't send it to them again. So it was kind of like the opposite of the way libraries tried to do it, which is when you return the book we destroy any record that you had borrowed it, lest somebody would ask us for it. But for that particular group we actually wanted to keep track of which books they'd read, so we didn't keep sending them the same thing over and over again because we sent things based on their profile of what they were interested in hearing and reading.

So, anyway, I did that and partly it was because my dissertation, looking at library overlap in the state, was kind of helping them to figure out about this whole question of if we were going to have a statewide database, what could it look like and that sort of convinced them that I knew something about the state, I guess. So a couple of things actually from the time I was at the Indiana State Library. One is that it was my first time to serve on an ASIS national committee, I served on the Publications Committee that was chaired by Nancy Roderer. It was great, it was interesting to serve on that committee, I learned a lot and understood more about how publications play a role in a society. And I was also just real impressed with how she handled the job of being a chair of a committee and thanking people as they were rotating off and just learning about what was involved in being on an ASIS committee.

>> Day: So let's step back a second; you got done with your doctorate here ...

>> Shaw: Right.

>> Day: ... you finished your doctorate and then you went to Indiana State Library.

>> Shaw: I was at the State Library when I finished my doctorate.

>> Day: So '82, '84 overlaps with '78 to '83 when you were a doctoral student?

>> Shaw: Yes, because I was - I finished my doctoral degree in '83 and part of that time I was working for the Indiana University Libraries and part of that time I was just a doctoral student with hourly jobs and such. And then in 1982 is when I got the job at the State Library. I took the job to begin the 1st of December and the people at the State Library told me how foolish I was, I should have started November 15th so I would have had the Thanksgiving holiday vacation. And I had been thinking how smart I was that I could have a whole week off at Thanksgiving and then start my job. I finished my dissertation actually while I was car pooling up to State Library. I had a small microcomputer that I could type the things on and store them, and when I was in the back seat of the car pool I would sometimes type stuff for my dissertation.

>> Day: That's right, because the Compaq was portable.

>> Shaw: Right, and this was a Tandy TRS80 that really was pretty small, it had a very limited memory also so you couldn't write very much of a dissertation. But one day - oh, this is kind of silly, but anyway one day as my car pool was driving up, we'd all drive up together and we'd drive home and we'd get out of work just at five o'clock. Each evening we'd ask, "what do you think happened in the news today?" Then we'd listen to the news on the way home. One day I said, "oh, I'll bet President Reagan said something silly," and it was the day that he said a comment that he thought was off-mike that where he said the bombing of Russia will begin in five minutes.

>> Day: Then what did you do at the Indiana State Library again?

>> Shaw: I was supposed to help them figure out what they were doing with automation. We did the RFP for their automated system that would be able to handle books for the blind. I did a lot of compiling statistics of Indiana libraries and putting them into a database for publication in a printed book. Learned SAS in order to do that, which was interesting. I had a lovely office, it looked right out over the main hall of the library. There were windows that looked out over this - from the second floor looking over a two-floor atrium. The building was built in 1931 I think, but the money for it was appropriated in 1929 before the stock market crashed, so the result was they had X dollars, but X dollars went a whole lot further because they were in the depression. They had a very nice building, and I got to take advantage of that.

>> Day: So after you finished your dissertation, then you headed off to the University of Illinois?

>> Shaw: That's right.

>> Day: Assistant Professor?

>> Shaw: Yes, well, oh, the other thing I was going to say I served as the Chair of the jury for the best ASIS book of the year at that time. And I had an odd experience, which was it was normal, there were several books that had been nominated and you have to farm them out and get people to review them. One book was nominated and then along came three letters of support for how wonderful this book was and they were written by three different people, but they were all in the same, rather peculiar handwriting. It turned out that the same person, the author of the book, had written those three letters.

>> Day: No kidding.

>> Shaw: It was really a conundrum, what do you do with something like that? So I figured out, all by myself, that I would write to the purported authors of the letters and thank them for having written in support of this book. Lo and behold, I got three letters back saying "I never wrote a letter in support of that book." So on that basis I decided not to include the letters in the nomination packet.

>> Day: That's terrible, was it a book written by a professor?

>> Shaw: It was written by somebody who was not a native of this country and I think just didn't understand how things were done, but also kind of - I don't know, was trying to do the best he could for his book I guess I could say.

>> Day: It's terrible.

>> Shaw: Yes, amazing some of the things that you come across. So, anyway, when I went to the University of Illinois in 1984, that stellar year when I was going to finish my dissertation, I was hired as an assistant professor. Got to go through all the normal things that people do to assistant professors. I taught a beginning cataloging course - the real cataloging course was beyond my powers, but the beginning one they would let me handle. We had lots of special terminology. People didn't know what's a parallel title and stuff like that. So we would have vocabulary at the

beginning of almost every class. One day I came back from visiting Bloomington over the weekend and when I wrote on a new word on the blackboard: h-i-l-l, because it's so flat in Illinois that I just thought people might not remember what hills were like.

>> Day: So what did you teach?

>> Shaw: I taught a lot of online searching. I got so I could teach online searching in my sleep. At first I wasn't very good at it, but toward the end I was getting - I felt pretty confident about it. I taught that beginning cataloging class. I taught a database design course, which again I didn't know all that well, but I eventually got okay with it. I taught computer programming sometimes, too.

>> Day: Online searching at that time would have been what, Lexis-Nexis?

>> Shaw: It was Dialog, essentially Dialog. Linda Smith was one of the people I worked with. Everybody who was at Illinois at the time really like her. She was a faculty member a few years ahead of me and tenured. She had the most fantastic book collection. Her office was filled with bookshelves and stacked with books everywhere there wasn't a shelf, but there was a desktop. Any time you needed something she was sure to have it and she also knew where it was in that whole collection of things. She had been collaborating on ARIST, the *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology*. Martha Williams was the editor and Linda was really her right-hand person for that, along with many, many other things that Linda did. Linda was a reader and proofreader par excellence. Every doctoral student I think had her on their committee just so they could get the advantage of her expertise with presentation, as well as with content. So when Martha needed somebody to do indexing for the annual review Linda suggested me and I agreed to do it. The first time I did it I thought, oh, this will be simple, I'll just use the programming that's available in dBase II because an index is just a database and you sort it. And it was much more complicated than - the rules for alphabetizing things are more complicated than dBase was aware of, but at least it did allow me some level of automation for creating the index. But I remember hours and hours of reading and entering and sorting and fixing, and finally printing off this stuff that was going to be the index. Oh, it was ...

>> Day: Yes, and dBase wasn't easy, I remember it.

>> Shaw: Yes, and you probably could have nightmares about it if you remember it for too long.

>> Day: Yes, I remember, something to do with indexing and it wasn't very easy.

>> Shaw: Yes, and when we taught database that was, you know, it was a great step forward compared to other options for databases. I remember an ASIS member, I don't remember who it was, who really complimented me on what a nice index I had done. What I had done was a very detailed index, not necessarily a very nice index, but every term was kind of qualified with the context so that you could not waste your time looking things up in the book because the index would tell you whether you wanted to go there. I eventually became less compulsive about how

much I needed to include in the index and I also got beyond dBase II. I eventually figured out that I could use Macrex, which is an indexing-specific software package that has wonderful capabilities for producing an index with the formatting that you want and so on, which was a great relief for me.

>> Day: Macrex?

>> Shaw: Yes, but I could focus more on the content of the index than on how to - how I was going to manipulate it afterward. That could be done by the computer.

>> Day: So did you get tenure there at the University of Illinois?

>> Shaw: No. No, I didn't.

>> Day: So you came to Indiana first?

>> Shaw: When I was there I thought it was just sort of doing what you're supposed to do, and when Leigh Eastabrook came as Dean she I guess wanted to up the game. I'm not sure, but anyway she made it sound like getting tenure was going to be a really big deal. And, also, the faculty there were not all the most easy people to deal with, I guess I should say, so I was looking. I actually I do remember looking for jobs while I was at Illinois. I interviewed at Tennessee and Indiana and took the job at Indiana. Oh, there's a couple other things that happened during my time at Illinois. One of them was I served on the Research Committee for ASIS and that was at the time that NSF was coming up with the notion of grand challenges. The person I remember most involved was Paul Kantor, who was at Case Western at the time. We decided we were going to come up with similar challenges for information science, only we were going to call them baby grand challenges because they wouldn't be quite so profound. But we did - it was one of many attempts of trying to get our society to think about what was the future of the field and what did research need to do to help us and so on.

>> Day: What kind of challenges?

>> Shaw: Yes, I don't know, there were things - I think metadata was a term that was just coming into being and we used the term metadata, that was how profound we were.

>> Day: Yes, it was called metalanguage before.

>> Shaw: Yes, well, this whole idea of description and access and those were the kinds of things that we were thinking about. Also, I had been - I had presented a few papers at SIG/CON by then and so and I was really convinced that SIG/CON and the comedy thing was a good idea. In fact, when we had the midyear meeting for ASIS in Bloomington in 1984 we actually had the first and only SIG/CON session at a midyear. We had one because we thought it was that wonderful. The way that the person responsible for SIG/CON is chosen is that the person who is the current, we call them chair of SIG/CON, the current chair at the end of the meeting goes around and picks the person who will be the next year's chair and they can't refuse, they have to do it. Well, the person from 1987 had picked somebody who didn't do it. So we got to the annual meeting in

Atlanta in 1988 and there wasn't going to be any SIG/CON session, so a group of us sort of rallied to the cause at the last minute and put on a SIG/CON in spite of everything. That was a great triumph having to step in and rescue SIG/CON, that was a wonderful feeling.

In 1988 I accepted an assistant professor position here at IU and came here, and Herb White was the Dean at the time. What else can I say? Well, anyway, Herb was the dean. I kind of, I was going to be in the information science side. I taught Introduction to Information Science as one of the courses that I taught frequently. I came in with years counted toward tenure, which really doesn't mean anything because basically anybody can say that they're ready to come up for tenure any time they want to, but I sort of thought I had a head start on it. And, in fact, I did come up sooner than I would have if I'd started at the very beginning. Herb ran a tight - he had very clear ideas about how much money people should be paid, so I got the salary that he thought I should get as a starting salary. When he left as dean and when Blaise Cronin came in, Blaise was much more interested in giving incoming people competitive salaries, and so my salary very soon was compressed by all the new hires.

>> Day: What do you mean compressed?

>> Shaw: That people were being hired in at salaries that were fairly close to what I was being paid after several years in my job.

[ Inaudible ]

>> Shaw: Yes, so.

>> Day: But how many years was Herb here while you were a faculty member?

>> Shaw: You'd think I would remember things like that. I don't know.

>> Day: Were you tenured before Blaise came on?

>> Shaw: Yes.

>> Day: Because as I understand it, Blaise radically changed the faculty of the school.

>> Shaw: Yes, so one of the things that Herb did while he was dean was he basically said we could teach a whole lot more people if we had offered our classes at all the other regional campuses, but basically people paid tuition and got degrees from IU Bloomington. So when I was hired I did that, I drove off to Richmond and taught classes and I drove up to South Bend and taught classes and to Indianapolis. I think those were the only campuses I actually visited. The drive to Richmond, IU East, was quite an ordeal because they wanted two classes one night a week. We would drive over there and whoever I was with would teach the first class, like from five-thirty to eight or whatever, and I would teach a class from eight-fifteen till whenever that one ended, and then we'd drive home. That was night driving on I-70, which was full of truck traffic, it was definitely not a very good experience for the instructors to try to stay awake and to

do all that teaching. And I can't imagine students got all that much out of it either. I was pretty worn out by the experience, but that was Herb's model of how the school should be funded. And Blaise saw that and said that's a waste of people's intellectual powers to be driving around the state of Indiana. So he concentrated it in just three locations - South Bend, Indianapolis and Bloomington - and then eventually just Indianapolis and Bloomington. He also reoriented the school here. Herb's background was as a professional and he saw professional education as kind of the main economic responsibility of the program.

>> Day: Professional librarian?

>> Shaw: Yes, because the MLS was the only master's degree that we offered, and so when Blaise came he started the Information Science master's degree and he started bringing in faculty with the expectation that they would be doing research that was the kind of thing that one did at a university and from his experience that's sort of how universities would work.

[ Inaudible ]

>> Shaw: The people that Blaise hired tended to have research interests that were not strictly in libraries, yes. And but that was typical of the times, there were lots and lots of programs that were branching far beyond librarianship in their orientation. And ASIS had always been sort of that side of this field and that was getting a lot more attention, so to me it made a lot of sense. I mean there are a lot of interesting things in libraries, but there certainly are a lot more interesting perspectives to bring in if you think beyond just librarianship to make that part of your research and teaching.

>> Day: I mean that's a good question given that period of time and given that transition, how did that shift of emphasis play out?

>> Shaw: Oh, there were people who were very unhappy - some left and others held on until they could retire and leave and be dissatisfied. The junior faculty were generally the ones who left. Some of the senior faculty, the people who were here when I was a doctoral student, were willing to go along with the changes and others were unhappy and couldn't stand to see how Blaise Cronin was ruining the school. There were differences of opinion. I don't - yes, there were people yelling in the hallway. Part of the reason that Herb retired when he did, he had the sort of view of the faculty, which was there were faculty positions lined up with different kinds of specializations. Marcy Murphy, who was my dissertation advisor, was the management line, which was also Herb's area of interest. So when Marcy retired then that opened up this line that would be natural for Herb. So he stepped into the management line and we needed to find a new dean. Herb wasn't really ready to retire in my opinion or step down from the deanship - he still had things he wanted to accomplish. When we hired Blaise, he had things he wanted to accomplish that were not at all in line with what Herb had wanted to do. So when Blaise started dismantling this all-around-the-state approach to things he and - Herb and Blaise didn't always - didn't ever agree on that and it was a tense time.

>> Day: Yes, how was Blaise hired, by Committee?

>> Shaw: Yes, they had a Search Committee.

>> Day: How did they find Blaise?

>> Shaw: Yes, he had been here actually, he'd been a guest speaker for something, I don't remember what it was. I was at Illinois at the time that he was a guest speaker. I remember somebody was so impressed with his talk that they sent me a copy of it, and Blaise is a very good and provocative speaker. So he was somebody that they knew and they - he made a good impression and they hired him. As you know, when you're interviewing for dean positions, I mean there are just so many different audiences you have to speak to and the more you know about the place you're interviewing the better you can - well, for most people you do a better job of saying the right things to the right people and hearing the right things from the right people. So Blaise came in and he had a definite opinion about making this more of a research oriented program than it had been.

>> Day: In terms of the faculty production, students, or...?

>> Shaw: I think mainly he was starting with faculty, faculty research productivity. He wasn't particularly interested in grant getting at that time, it was more bibliometric perspectives and whose work is being published and whose work is being cited. Also broadening the scope of what we were doing, who would be doing interesting work that might collaborate or lead us in new and interesting directions. The MLS program was kind of the - it was like the economic stability, but it was not the major interest of the faculty and so you ended up with a lot of courses taught by adjunct faculty and sort of the divergence between the faculty and the students, the bulk of the students.

>> Day: How did the relation to the library change during that period? I imagine there was more investment by the library, within the library school?

>> Shaw: No, there wasn't. I remember one time when I was working in the IU libraries around 1980 that one of the faculty members said "I'd love to help, how can I help?" And we all said, "oh, they don't know anything, they're just the library school," so that that ...

>> Day: That was going on back then?

>> Shaw: Yes, there was sort of a - I mean there's always been a cordial feeling, but sort of also a sense that they don't really know the real world and the SLIS faculty don't know the real world or the librarians don't, I don't know, whatever we think about librarians. So, yes, there'd been individually good connections or relationships, but not always. So one of Blaise's hires was Rob Kling. I put him down as somebody I should be sure to mention. I'm not sure just why I decided he should be there, but anyway when we were first talking about merging - oh, I remember now. Because when informatics became a term that was being used on campus, Rob was one of the leaders of that whole informatics movement. It was going to be like the cognitive science program; would have affiliated faculty from lots of different disciplines and they would meet

together and do informatics, whatever that might happen to be. A lot of people in our school kind of identified with what that might happen to be. The university said that's okay, but you can't really have a program, you have to have a school. It has to have students, it has to generate revenue from student tuition. So then the idea of an informatics program had to be converted to an informatics school, and then it was pretty hard to figure out what its footprint would be and how it would differ from a school of library and information science, along with the other pieces that were on campus. There was a lot of back and forth about that. This was during the period when several other universities that had library schools sort of tore them down and rebuilt them as schools of information or information studies or whatever. But we took the other path, which was to have one of each.

>> Day: That happened because with the Chancellor?

>> Shaw: The President.

>> Day: The President.

>> Shaw: Yes.

>> Day: Decided that they needed to be different schools?

>> Shaw: Yes, so that if you're going to have something called informatics and it needed to be something that wasn't just SLIS reborn, then that was the way to do it.

[ Inaudible ]

>> Shaw: Yes, so Rob had been a leader when it was a research oriented thing, but when it was proposed as here's a separate school and it was started I actually was involved. We had to decide what would be the curriculum for this and all the pieces that had to be there in order for the campus and the trustees and the state to approve this new school, which was pretty weird, designing a school. Several of us were involved in that part of it, and then in 2002 there was the question of whether Informatics and SLIS should be put together. Rob was one of the leaders who said no. Rob's background was in computer science and he sort of said, no, Informatics stuff, that's too much like computer science, and a lot of his research was about what's wrong with computer science and how it's inadequate. He said we have something more special here in SLIS and we don't want to be subsumed by that computer science perspective that dominates Informatics. That's when the computer science people looked at it and said, "oh, that's right, they do stuff that's like computer science and they have a lot more money than we're getting as just a department within the College of Arts and Sciences." So by just talking about merging SLIS with Informatics we ended up merging computer science with Informatics and SLIS stayed separate. Then computer science became even more of a focus for the School of Informatics, as it was then called, even though they added computer science. Rob died in 2003. It was an odd year that year because Sharon Brehm, the chancellor in charge of this campus, made it very difficult for the deans. Lots of deans were unhappy and Blaise was one of them. He finally decided he'd had enough of it, he was going to step down as dean. Rob Kling had said he would be willing to step in to be the interim dean, but he didn't want to be called "interim," he just wanted to be called

dean, even if he was an interim dean and that didn't meet with approval. So that's why I got to be interim dean, where I took over for awhile. Then fortunately, from my perspective, Sharon Brehm decided she didn't want to stick around as the chancellor and Karen Hansen came in to the position as provost with responsibility for the campus. I was sick and tired of being interim dean and Blaise was willing to come back and that made it a whole lot easier than trying to do something else to find us a dean, so that was the arrangement. Blaise and I worked together on various things. He was the editor of ARIST, the *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology*, starting in 2001 and I was the associate editor. That meant we all read and edited tons of stuff that was submitted as chapters. I learned an awful lot about copy editing from that experience. We had various copy editors, but Dorothy Pike was the one who served the longest with us and she really was phenomenal and taught me a lot. She was based in Minnesota. I've never met her, but I would get things in as good a shape as I could and send them to her and then I'd learn so much by what she sent back with the revisions that she suggested and the questions that she had. I learned a lot from the content, but I also learned a lot from her about editing and that sort of thing. Then Blaise took over as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the American Society of Information Society and Technology*.

>> Day: 2009?

>> Shaw: 2009 and appointed me associate editor. I stopped being associate editor in 2013, but that was another experience because there instead of just doing one rounds of reading and editing for an annual publication it was around the calendar and there was always something going on. They had a huge, very elaborate and sophisticated electronic submission and review system that I learned about, so that was good.

>> Day: I wonder when did you become associate dean?

>> Shaw: You'd think I'd remember that, wouldn't you? It's in my CV – 1995. I must say that my experience - Verna Pungitore was the associate dean immediately before me, and I always said if you have to be an associate dean the best people you can have on the faculty are former associate deans, they are the most cooperative and understanding of any problem you encounter, they're willing to help, and she was wonderful. I think we wore her out. So being an associate dean just sort of means you do the stuff, parts of the job that the dean doesn't want to do, and in my case that involved a lot of class scheduling and dealing with adjunct faculty and all those parts of accreditation review that have to be tended to and stuff like that.

>> Day: So you carried the ALA accreditation for the school?

>> Shaw: I think twice we went through accreditation while I was here. I had never been through accreditation. I managed to dodge it every place else I'd been, so I learned a lot from those experiences.

>> Day: Can you describe more of being associate dean?

>> Shaw: Well, one of the things is that it means basically, at least in my experience, the idea was you showed up because you never knew when somebody was going to have a problem and so you had to be here in case something happened. And something would happen when you least expected it. For example, the servers for our computer were in the little area that's now between Susan Herring's office and Room 030 and it had been a little kitchen area for a break room and lounge, and the water main above them burst. So we had to run in with umbrellas and try to find ways to preserve our computers and servers. Eventually we were really proud that we finally got another more secure location to put the servers. So that was one of those kinds of things that happened. A lot of being on search committees, chairing search committees, and helping to hire new faculty, it seemed like we hired a lot of faculty and had a lot of search committees. Interesting experiences meeting all those people, too. And then evaluating untenured faculty for teaching, so a chance to sit in on people's classes and observe and then look at course evaluations, students' evaluations for courses. Also sitting in on any review meetings with the dean and taking notes for that, anyway, it actually gave me a good sense of all the faculty members and their research interests and so on. Now we have the Faculty Policy Committee that meets with the chair to go over the reviews and I think that's good because it shares knowledge more widely. Blaise's approach was generally that faculty shouldn't have to serve on committees, that they'd be more productive and their work would be more rewarding for the school if they could be off doing research instead of doing this kind of stuff, but sometimes that leads to disaggregation of the school's common purpose. Another thing that I did while here was the collaborative book, Introduction to Information Science and Technology. It, and it sounds really good. I'll give you the pitch and then I'll tell you what actually happened. The idea was we live in a world where people can collaborate electronically and you don't have to be co-located, so we will set up a wiki and we will have book. We will start with an outline of what the book will be and all the intelligent people of our society will be able to contribute and through the contributions and discussions and refinements we will come up with a very good introduction to the field.

>> Day: And this was very recently?

>> Shaw: Yes, that was in like 2009 I think or 2008 or 2009 that we started it and it was finally published in 2011. The idea was that at a certain point we'll freeze it, we'll grab it, we'll print it, and then we'll have a textbook that everybody can use. Well, we did set up a wiki and we started out with a structure that I created. Well, anybody who creates something like this has got to be not good by various people's standards, but anyway we had a structure. Some of the content intrigued some really very well prepared people in the field and they wrote very nice contributions and other people contributed and there was some back and forth. Other sections were just so boring that nobody wanted to write about them and I ended up either writing the first draft or recruiting, begging somebody to write and then there wasn't a whole lot of discussion about those topics. And some chapters were grabbed by people who had such a firm but lopsided view of the content area that it got very big and very specific, but not very well presented for an introductory text. At the point we said we were going to freeze it I grabbed the wiki's content and Chuck and I spent an awful lot of time editing it so that it would be sort of like a coherent textbook. That's what came out as the final product. But it was a publication, it was published by ITI in 2011.

>> Day: What's ITI?

>> Shaw: Information Today Incorporated and they're the people who published ARIST as well. John Bryans was our contact at ITI. He was very helpful, he's another person who helped me learn a lot about writing and editing and maintaining one's sanity. In many senses the collaborative book was a good experience, but again it was one of those hairy editorial jobs that turned out to be more than what it had started to sound like at the beginning.

>> Day: So why don't we talk about the transitional stage? Talk about the movement from SLIS to Department of Information and Library Science and your role as Chair of the department?

>> Shaw: So when Blaise stepped down as dean, Karen Hansen was the provost and she asked me to be the interim dean.

>> Day: That was in 2012?

>> Shaw: 2011. I know it was in the winter because she suggested a salary for me - no, she asked me what I would want as a salary and when I told her she thought it was too low. She told me to sleep on it. I went home and slept on it and then it snowed that night and I shoveled snow on it, then came back to her with another suggestion for my salary, and she said it was still too low, and so she told me what my salary would be, so that was ...

>> Day: January.

>> Shaw: Yes, so that was how I finally got over that compressed salary was by the provost saying to me, no, this is what you'll be paid. At that time the trustees had been asking why we needed two schools that have the word information in their names. From a trustee level view of the university it is really hard to explain that kind of thing to anybody. And from the president's view it was also hard to explain. So the provost's job was to make it happen and that whole spring semester we, the SLIS faculty, went through discussions about why we didn't think it should happen and gradually got to the point where a majority of the people were accepting of the fact that we could actually do this or we could at least talk about doing it. There were potential benefits as well as definite drawbacks to merging the two schools. Faculty members were very adult about it; we'd seen this happen at other schools where there were I schools. Schools of information of one sort or another are not all that uncommon among the people with whom we associate. And as Blaise had been bringing in faculty members from lots of different disciplines, there were lots of people who didn't have any particular affiliation with librarianship anyway, they might still have wanted to have the independence, but at least they didn't see the library piece as being all that crucial, especially for the Bloomington faculty. The Indianapolis faculty had been hired more specifically to support the MLS program so they didn't have the same reading about it that we did in Bloomington. Karen Hansen was very generous with her time and trying to help us to see the positives and the potential and to put money on the table to make us willing to do it. That was also a time when we were starting to see a decline in the enrollment in the MLS and it was clear we needed to branch out and to have different pieces than

just that degree program to bring in the tuition to support us. In a sense that alternative was blocked, even though we had something called the MIS, Master of Information of Science, there wasn't any way that we could recruit people into it because much of that turf was occupied by the School of Informatics. So seeing some difficulties with where we were, having a broader perspective, and seeing possibilities that would be open to us if we were part of a larger school were all things that helped us to make that move. And I think many alumni were opposed to it, alumni generally wanted ... they were saying "when do you want us to start writing letters to the trustees?" and things like that, which wasn't what we needed. Some alums found it easy enough to see what was going on and could see that this made sense; they saw other schools that had done something similar. So it worked, we were the poster child for an effective merger. I think there were some other mergers that have happened since on campus that haven't been as smooth, and it's partly because there was already a fair amount of collaboration between the faculty members in the two schools. We were also just very fortunate that Bobby Schnabel was the dean at Informatics and was interested in having a big school that would have lots of different perspectives in it. So we did merge. I'm not sure - it hasn't been all easy or all, you know, fun and games, but I think that in general the support has been very good. I think our students - I think that our teaching opportunities have expanded. We offer undergraduate programs, we offer courses that are subscribed by students from the other departments in the school so that our enrollment numbers are good. We have research collaborations among faculty and doctoral students in ours and other departments. The big ideas that you can have if you're part of a big school are much more impressive, so I think that on the whole it was the right thing to do. I'm sure that there are people who have complaints about it, but that would be the case no matter what we had done. If we had managed to figure out a way to fight against the trustees and everything and come out it would have been a short-lived victory, I think we wouldn't have had much of a chance to be a success as a school given what's happening in the world. I retired in May of 2014 and I've been absolutely impressed and delighted with how well the department is faring. I think Pinna Fichman, the new department chair, keeps pointing out to me that I was the dean when she was hired so I get credit for her being my hire. I think she's done a great job with keeping the focus of the school and building strong support among the faculty and students. So it makes it very easy to be retired if you're not looking over your shoulder saying why are they doing that?

>> Day: So any last thoughts?

>> Shaw: I don't think so, just that I'm really pleased that ASIST is doing this project. I know it's been going on for a long time. There are some people whose knowledge we have now that we would not have had if Bob and the rest of you hadn't started doing these interviews. So I'm pleased and impressed and glad that we have this resource.

>> Day: And we're very glad we've had a chance to interview you and you gave of your time. Thank you very much.

>> Shaw: Thank you, Ron.