



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Jean Chandler Smith Oral History Interview, 1986

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Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Jean Chandler Smith Oral History Interview
Identifier:	Record Unit 9588
Date:	1986
Extent:	1 audiotape (Reference copy).
Creator::	Smith, Jean Chandler, interviewee
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9588, Jean Chandler Smith Oral History Interview

Use Restriction

Restricted. Contact SIHistory@si.edu to request permission.

Historical Note

Jean Chandler Smith (1918-1999), librarian and bibliographer, received the A.B. from Bryn Mawr College in 1939, the M.S. from Yale University in 1953, and the M.L.S. from The Catholic University of America in 1973. She began her career as a reference librarian for the District of Columbia Public Library from 1939 to 1943. During the latter part of World War II, she worked as a translator in Panama and as a librarian in Hawaii. In 1944, she joined the staff of Yale University as a Librarian and Research Associate. In 1959, she accepted a position as Acting Chief of Acquisitions at the National Institutes of Health Library and moved to the Department of the Interior in 1963. She joined the staff of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) in 1965. She served as Acting Director in 1972 and from 1977 to 1979. After her retirement in 1981, she continued her research as an SIL Research Associate.

Introduction

The Smithsonian Institution Archives began its Oral History Program in 1973. The purpose of the program is to supplement the written documentation of the Archives' record and manuscript collections with an Oral History Collection, focusing on the history of the Institution, research by its scholars, and contributions of its staff. Program staff conduct interviews with current and retired Smithsonian staff and others who have made significant contributions to the Institution. There are also interviews conducted by researchers or

students on topics related to the history of the Smithsonian or the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

Smith was interviewed for the Smithsonian Institution Archives Oral History Collection because of her service as a librarian and administrator with Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

Descriptive Entry

This interview of Smith was conducted by University of Maryland student Linda Zindt in 1986 and covers her education, career at SIL, and her role as an administrator. The collection consists of 1.0 hour of audiotape recording and 27 pages of transcript.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Interviews
- Library administration
- Librarians
- Oral history
- Science -- History
- Technology -- History
- Women -- History

Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes
- Transcripts

Names:

- Dibner Library
- Libraries
- Smith, Jean Chandler
- Smithsonian Institution. Libraries
- Zindt, Linda, interviewer

Container Listing

Oversize

Oversize

Interview 1: December 3, 1986

Oversize

Interview covers her education and career, focusing on her years at Smithsonian Institution Libraries, including staffing, technological advances, acquisition of the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology, and her role as an administrator.

Oversize

Transcript, pp. 1-27, of audiotape recording, 1.0 hour.

Oversize

Audio Recordings of Interview: Total Recording Time: 1.0 hour

Note:

- Original Masters: 1 audiotape cassette
- Preservation Masters: 1 5" reel-to-reel audiotape
- Reference Copies: 1 cassette audiotape