



Thirty Years of Teaching and Libraries

Joy Ramos

More than thirty years ago now, I was interested in the possibility of teaching as I had earned my master's with some coursework towards a doctoral degree. The faculty members I talked to said they would be in touch with me if there was an opening. In the meantime, I started work on campus at the Chuckery in Gardner Student Center, busing tables for the entire area while working for McDonalds, which was one of the eateries there. I had begged for a chance to work there, because I could not get any work elsewhere. As a person with some disabilities (cerebral palsy and severe hearing loss, corrected with hearing aids) I was glad to have any job after having

moved here from Texas, where I had worked in the University of Texas—Austin libraries. I approached Goodwill, as maybe they could help me find better employment. They assisted me with refining my interviewing skills and through the Job Training Partnership Act of 1982, I was eventually hired by the head of cataloging to work full-time, nearly doubling my McDonald's salary. There were ten folks in cataloging at the time in Bierce Library—the head and three teams with three members each. I became a member of one team, with a faculty cataloger, staff cataloger, and me as a copy cataloger. As I had the necessary skills and experience, training went well, a year went by quickly, and I felt less challenged by the work.

However, in the Fall of 1990, those two anthropology faculty hired me as a part-time faculty member, to teach a four-credit introductory course. I relished my second job and really enjoyed my students. I was hired in at the highest pay level at the time, as they said I would not receive any regular raises. Little did I know then, I would teach for twenty-nine years as an adjunct, sometimes even teaching two sections in a semester, and summer sessions as needed.

Now, I am one of the staff members at Bierce and at Archival Services, where I'm still cataloging. I enjoy and am proud of the work we do together as a unit.