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How Adelaide Hasse Got Fired:

A Feminist History of Librarianship through the Story of One Difficult Woman, 1889-1953

Wednesday, October 8, 2008, 1:00-3:00pm
Suzzallo & Allen Libraries, Petersen Room
University of Washington campus

Speaker: Professor Mary Clare Beck, Eastern Michigan University, emeritus

Adelaide Hasse was one of the most prominent and certainly the most controversial of the first generation of women librarians in the era of the New Woman. Best known for her work with government publications, she also was involved in most of the major issues of a developing profession, seldom missing an opportunity to make provocative comments. Her career swung dramatically between highs and lows, most notably in being summarily dismissed by New York Public Library after twenty-one years of distinguished service, but she always fought back and bounced back. Clare Beck, author of *The New Woman as Librarian: the Career of Adelaide Hasse* (Scarecrow Press, 2006), will discuss her experience in researching and writing the life of a woman librarian and suggest how biography can both illuminate the construction of a gendered profession and provide fresh perspective on issues of continuing concern to librarians.

Clare Beck is emeritus professor at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, where she served for many years as a government documents librarian.

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