

# Clare Rodden

Clare Rodden, who was Librarian-in-Charge of the New South Wales Public Works Library from 1984 to March 1994, died on 30 May.

Clare joined the State Library of NSW in 1969. After various postings to governmental departmental libraries, she became Senior Librarian at the then State Office Block Library in 1984.

The ten years that followed saw many changes to that library: two generations of automated library systems, a massive downsizing and relocation and a change in subject specialisation and clientele. Despite Clare's strong belief in the unique value of a departmental collection as a significant historical record, she saw what could be gained from enforced change, and presided over a collection evaluation and downsizing exercise conducted in textbook fashion.

The library she left serves as testimony to her drive and uncompromising professionalism. It is regularly inspected as an example of a state-of-the-art government agency information service.

Clare considered herself a traditional librarian, a library manager by choice but a cataloguer by inclination. It was the impeccable recording of the original collection that made the later changes to the library possible. Most of these changes occurred during the two and a half years of her illness.

An inveterate networker and information gatherer, Clare was a valued source of advice to those who sought her counsel. Her colleagues will remember her outspoken individualism, her perceptiveness, her relentless determination and, above all, her professionalism. Her staff will recall her supportiveness and the encouragement and freedom she gave them to foster their



talents. Those closer to her feel humbled at the courage and optimism with which she faced her illness, and her concern for others in trouble, even in the days before her death. She will be sorely missed.

EM and RS

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