

Roberta I. Shaffer

Associate Librarian for Library Services

Roberta I. Shaffer was appointed Associate Librarian for Library Services on January 3, 2012. In this capacity she manages 53 divisions and offices whose over 2,000 employees are responsible for acquisitions, cataloging, public service, and preservation activities, services to the blind and physically handicapped, and network and bibliographic standards for America's national library.

Shaffer graduated cum laude from Vassar College with an A.B. degree in political science/demography, with highest honors from Emory University with a master's degree in law librarianship and cum laude with a J.D. from Tulane University School of Law. She is admitted to the Texas, District of Columbia and U.S. Supreme Court bars. She has a certificate in mediation and negotiation from the Harvard Law School.

Shaffer has a rich and diverse background in academics, management, law, librarianship and technology. In 1980, she was appointed director of the University of Houston Law Center's Legal Communications Program and associate director of the center's Law and Technology Program. In 1984, she became the first person appointed to the position of special assistant to the Law Librarian in the Library of Congress.

In 1987, Shaffer was named a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at the Tel Aviv University Faculty of Law in Israel, and also participated in a legal database development program sponsored by the Portuguese Institute for Science and Technology and Ministry of Justice. Upon her return to the U.S., she worked at the George Washington University National Law Center Library.

From 1990 until 1999, she served concurrently as adjunct coordinator of the law librarianship specialization at the School of Library and Information Science at the Catholic University of America and as director of research services at the law firm of Covington and Burling in Washington, D.C. In 1999, she was appointed and served for two years as dean and professor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Texas at Austin. After working briefly with the Special Libraries Association and as a consultant, in 2002 she accepted the position of director of external relations and program development and professor at the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland in College Park, where she implemented and ran the Master of Information Management (MIM) degree.

Shaffer returned to the Library of Congress in 2005 as executive director of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee/Federal Library Network (FLICC/FEDLINK). In 2009, she was named as the 22nd Law Librarian of Congress.

Shaffer has been a long-standing member of the American Bar Association, the American Association of Law Libraries and the World Future Society. A past officer of the International Association of Law Libraries, she is currently serving as the President of the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information.

Shaffer's research interests include information authenticity and perpetual access, the concept of "authority" in cyberspace, and organizational innovation. For most of her professional life, Shaffer has been an active advocate for the arts and artists. On a personal level, she spends her time swimming daily, as a jewelry designer under the trade name *Cornelia's Jewels*, after the children's story, and raises West Highland Terriers as "reading dogs."



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