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## A 'Library Lady' retires

When Margaret Galbreath retired from th Elizabeth South Public Library in October, i was a reminder that the era of the 'Librar lady' is drawing to an end. Not that femal librarians are not ladies, but the term seem especially to describe those women who without a great deal of formal training but because of their love of people and books found themselves running libraries and ap plied their many talents to that with demon strable skill and flair.

Margaret epitomises such women — a write herself, her love of literature is matched b her concern for and genuine interest in he users. Generations of children have bee: gently encouraged to regard the library as place for intellectual adventure and play Generations of elderly borrowers have founin her a willing ear and a fount of informatio: and kindness and love.

I was lucky enough first to meet Margare early in my career as a 'qualified' libraria and she taught me a great deal of what publi library work is all about. No doubt moder librarianship is a profession which can n longer manage without formal qualifications but in our rush to make ourselves 'respecta ble', let us not forget or ignore the tradition handed down to us by those ladies who hav given so much of themselves to the profesion and have taught us, as professionals, s much of what the word should mean.

Thank you, Margaret, from all of us – fror users and librarians and all who have gainefrom your wisdom and your caring.

Lynne Carmichae

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