

Backgrounder

Mary Augusta Thomas

As Assistant Director for Reader Services and Strategic Planning, Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL), Ms. Thomas directs the operation of twenty libraries located in each of the museums and research institutes and works with SI staff on library planning issues to support the mission of the Smithsonian. Ms. Thomas began her career in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology at the Smithsonian in 1976. She later served as assistant to the Director for Resource Development and as Assistant Director, Management and Technical Services for the Libraries office before beginning her most recent assignment. Ms. Thomas received the Smithsonian Secretary's Award for Excellence in Equal Opportunity in 1999. Ms. Thomas is the curator of *An Odyssey in Print: Adventures in Smithsonian Libraries* on display at the National Museum of American History from May 2002-December 2003.



Professional commitments include serving as Chair of the Advisory Board for the Library Administration and Management Association's journal *Library Administration & Management*. In 1999 Ms. Thomas began a four-year term as Councilor-at-large for the American Library Association, and is the current chair of the ALA Resolutions Committee. Ms. Thomas is a Past President, District of Columbia Library Association, and former chair of the Awards committee. Ms. Thomas received the DCLA Distinguished Service Award, 2001. Elected a Rotating member of the Federal Libraries and Information Centers coordinating committee (FLICC), Ms. Thomas also served as co-chair of the FLICC Library of Congress Bicentennial Working Group. Her publications include: *Information Imagineering: Meeting at the Interface*, edited with Milton Wolfe and Pat Ensor, ALA Editions, 1998 and *An Odyssey in Print: Adventures in Smithsonian Libraries*, March, 2002.

Ms. Thomas graduated cum laude from Mount Holyoke College and read Medieval Studies at the University of York, England. Her M.S.L.S. was granted in May 1978 from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. A member of IOTA chapter of Beta Phi Mu, she was a Senior Fellow, Council on Library Resources at the University California, Los Angeles. Ms. Thomas is listed in *Who's Who in America*.