

Ida M. Robinson Papers

Dates Created: 1954 – 1988

Bulk Dates: 1959-1963

Extent: 0.42 linear feet or 1 clamshell box

Creator: Robinson, Ida Marian

Subjects:

Robinson, Ida Marian; University of Maryland, Baltimore. Health Sciences and Human Services Library.; University of Maryland, Baltimore; Medical Library Association; American Dental Association.; Library administrators.

Abstract:

The Ida M. Robinson Papers contains materials from her tenure as Director of the Health Sciences Library of the University of Maryland, Baltimore. The collection contains professional correspondence, biographical materials, and professional materials surrounding Robinson's life and career. The collection provides insight into library and professional organization administration as well as the history of the University and the library. The materials date from 1954 to 1988 but the majority fall between 1959 and 1963.

Biographical History:

Ida Marian (Breed) Robinson was born on March 1, 1903 in Corning, NY. She graduated from Cornell University in 1924 and Columbia University in 1944 and became a certified Medical Librarian in 1951. She joined the University of Maryland in 1944 as head of the library overseeing four and then five libraries (medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing; social work was added later) in different locations across the school. The libraries were combined into one Health Sciences Library in a new building in 1960. Robinson was instrumental in the design of the new library and after her retirement from the University of Maryland, Baltimore served as deputy director of the University of Miami Medical School Library to oversee their new library building.

Robinson was also active in research and service to the library profession. She conducted a survey on employment and salaries of librarians (the first of its kind) at the request of the Medical Library Association from 1948 to 1949. As a result, she served as the MLA's placement advisor where she matched candidates to available jobs. Later she was elected to the MLA's executive board and was the first individual to be elected to life membership in the organization. In the dental realm, she completed a survey of dental libraries and librarians to understand their concerns with dental publications through the American Dental Association.

Ida Robinson retired from the University of Maryland Baltimore in 1965, serving as director of the library from 1946 until her retirement. At the time of her retirement she was named Librarian Emeritus of the Health Sciences Library. She passed away on October 10, 1985 in Baltimore.

Scope and Content:

1 box



The collection is divided into three series: Correspondence, Biographical Materials, and Professional Materials. The collection sheds light on the research interests of Ida M. Robinson in addition to her work in the Health Sciences Library at the University of Maryland Baltimore and with the American Dental Association and Medical Library Association.

Series 1 – Correspondence 1954-1964 & undated

8 Folders

Series 1 contains correspondence to and from Ida M. Robinson from 1954 to 1964. It includes correspondence about her service in the Medical Library Association and the American Dental Association as well as her time as Director of the Health Sciences Library at the University of Maryland Baltimore. Included in this series is correspondence about Robinson's research for the American Dental Association on librarian's views on dental publications.

Series 2 – Biographical Materials, 1964-1988 & undated

3 Folders

Series 2 contains biographical materials including photographs and newspaper clippings about her accomplishments, death, and reminiscences of Robinson.

Series 3 – Professional Materials, 1945-1961 & undated

8 Folders

Series 3 contains professional materials from Ida M. Robinson's tenure as director of the Health Sciences Library. The majority of the series contains materials from Robinson's work with the American Dental Association. The series also includes completed publications and manuscript versions of publications, materials on dental publishing, and materials from other professional organizations.

Arrangement: Thematically then chronologically when possible

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research

Language: Materials entirely in English

Related Collection: Health Sciences and Human Services Library Records; Health and Human Services Library Digital Collection: <https://archive.hshsl.umaryland.edu/handle/10713/2>

Custodial History:

These materials were added to and collected by the historical collections librarians of the Health Sciences and Human Services Library at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Some materials were pulled from the vertical files as well as the separate Health Sciences and Human Services Library Collection.

Sources Used:

Jensen JE. Ida Marian Robinson, 1903–1985 [obituary]. Bull Med Lib Assoc. 1988 Apr; 76 (2):202–203.

Professional Report on Ida Marian Robinson, Librarian in Ida M. Robinson Papers, 1965.

Processing Information:

Processed December 2019 by Tara Wink, Historical Librarian and Archivist at the Health Sciences and Human Services Library.