MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
Assistant Professor Elaine Fain (1929-1980)

On May 10, 1980, the School of Library Science lost, at the conclusion of a long illness, Elaine Fain, who has been a member of the faculty since 1975.

Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Elaine Fain received a B.S. in Journalism in 1949, from the University of Illinois. She went on to receive both a Bachelor's degree (University of California-Berkeley) and a Master's degree (University of Wisconsin-Madison) in Library Science. At UW-Madison she was then awarded the Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies in 1972.

Professor Fain's non-teaching positions, beginning in 1952, were in special libraries: law, urban planning, labor, credit unions, medical, and health. While she was a lecturer at UW-Madison (1967 to 1975), she taught in both the Library School and in the Department of Educational Policies Studies. Her teaching there reflected her special interest in the history of education and the foundations of librarianship.

At UWM she taught such courses as Research Methods in Librarianship, Special Libraries, and Building Library Collections. In 1978, she was recipient of the Morris Fromkin Memorial Grant, and she delivered the Ninth Annual Fromkin Lecture, entitled, "Books for New Americans: Public Library Work with Immigrants, 1900-1925." Her publications also reflected her scholarly concern for the relationship between libraries and the broader aspects of educational policy and history. Her most recent article (Library Trends, Winter, 1978) was entitled, "The Library and American Education: Education Through Secondary School."

Stricken by cancer, Elaine Fain carried on her teaching schedule through the autumn of 1979, but found it increasingly difficult to maintain her activities after that. Dr. Fain was always interested and curious, informed and involved. She enjoyed arguing and did so with amusement and vigor. She had a profound commitment to her students and her family, her colleagues and her profession. She will be well remembered for her wit and humor, her courage and good cheer, and her distinctive perceptions of the world of ideas.

The School of Library Science feels keenly the loss of a scholar who was leading the way toward a better understanding of the educational function of libraries in the United States. The School has established a memorial scholarship in the name of Elaine Fain.