THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION
**DOCUMENETING ASERL’S EARLY HISTORY**

- **Feb. 1956** – The first “meeting,” an informal gathering of library deans and directors
- **June 1956** – ASERL is formally established as an informal planning body of professional librarians from the major university libraries of 11 Southeastern states
- **1959** – ASERL is incorporated in Louisiana (and annual dues were $25!)
- **Early 1970s** – The establishment of SOLINET
- **1993** – Resource sharing
- **Late 1990s** – First cooperative buying of e-resources
- **May 2000** - John Burger came on board as the first staff member
THE INTERVIEWEES

- Barry Baker, University of Central Florida
- Joe Boykin, University of North Carolina – Charlotte, Clemson University
- David Ferriero, Duke University
- Paul Gherman, Virginia Tech; Vanderbilt University
- Frank Grisham, Vanderbilt University; SOLINET
- Paula Kaufman, University of Tennessee – Knoxville
- Kate Nevins, SOLINET; LYRASIS
- Dr. Ralph Russell, East Carolina University; Georgia State University
- Jerry Stephens, University of Alabama – Birmingham
- Paul Willis, University of Kentucky; University of South Carolina
THE PROCESS

- March  John Burger and Doug Boyd discuss the possibility of collecting oral histories
- May  Planning meeting in Lexington with John, Doug, and Jen Bartlett
- August – November  Interviews conducted
  - Interviewee’s background, career path, milestones
  - Interviewee’s institutional connection with ASERL
  - ASERL Highlights – who were the change agents and leaders? What were problems and challenges? What projects in particular were significant?
- August – December  Interview processing and access in SPOKEdb and OHMS
The first interview (and one of two in video)

The path to librarianship
Challenges at Georgia State University Library
The early days of ASERL
Strengths of ASERL/ASERL Initiatives
Many ASERL library leaders can point to a specific person who saw their potential as a young person and guided them into libraries from other career paths.

A strong sense of community within ASERL and the Southeast.

A cohort of colleagues for advice, benchmarking, networking.

Some remain very involved in the profession well after retirement, while others never looked back.

Much of the continuing success of ASERL stems from the organizational skills of an executive director.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- John Burger and the ASERL Board of Directors
- Dr. Terry Birdwhistell, Dean of the University of Kentucky Libraries
- Deirdre Scaggs, Associate Dean, UK Libraries Special Collections Research Center
- Dr. Doug Boyd, Director of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History
- Kopana Terry, Oral History Archivist
- Danielle Gabbard, Assistant Oral History Archivist
THANK YOU!

The ASERL 60th Anniversary interviews may be found at the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, https://kentuckyoralhistory.org/

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