

Mollie Gugler - 1973-off & on

Years Attended: 1973+

Area of Study: YC Librarian/General Studies

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Like many graduates of Yavapai College programs, Mollie now brings her skills to the college as an employee. Here is the story she shares with us:

I work in the Yavapai College Library. I provide assistance at the Reference Desk, do library instruction, and manage several collections -- Government Documents, Maps, and Archives. I've worked at the College for 20 years and have taken classes off and on since 1973 so I have many memories.

I remember hanging out with my friend in the glassblowing area where she was taking a class. It was amazing to feel the heat from the glass furnace and watch the students blow and shape the glass. I also remember taking a solar energy class. The College seemed to me to be a lively, happening place. Of course, the memories that stick out the most in my mind are of the changes that have taken place in the Library. We had an electric Cushman delivery vehicle that we used to haul heavy objects. One morning I took it down to the book drop to pick up what was there and the battery went dead on me. I couldn't push it and so I had to leave it in the middle of the road and call Campus Police.

When I first started, the Library still had its catalog on microfiche. The patron's records had been put into a computer system, CLSI but everything else was done manually. We very quickly moved from that into using computers for as much as we could. The Director at that time, Charlotte Brennan, was very forward thinking and always seemed to know where we should be technologically before we even knew of the need. We started with 4 Apple computers for student usage. Our first electronic database in 1988

came with monthly updates on CDs. We eventually ended up with drawers full of those CDs. It was great when the Internet came along. The College tried to stay ahead of the game and it was very exciting to learn so many new ways to do our work and serve our patrons.

The last 20 years has been a real learning curve with constant changes in the library field. The library used to be on the bottom level of Building 3. In Dec. 1989, the back wall of the building was knocked out and the building was extended out into a small parking lot. It was great to have more space in the library but I missed the back parking lot--I used to take a nap there in my car on my lunch break. Opening the Library at 7 a.m. every day could be tiring at times. Anyway, everything in the library needed to be moved when the expansion took place--what a job that was. We finished in time to open up for the start of Spring Semester 1990.

Another huge change was in Dec. 2004 when we moved into Building 19, which was new at the time. It was the first building to be completed in a plan to renovate all the older buildings on campus. The library staff had been involved in many aspects of the planning for the building and we were excited to be moving. The new facility was going to give us the opportunity to do things we had wanted to do for a long time -- have student study rooms with computers, have a classroom where we could teach students and faculty how to use our resources, a quiet study area, etc.

Building 19 wasn't completely finished when we moved into it. It was very cold outside and we had no heat and few creature comforts (i.e., no desks, chairs or working restrooms). The snow was piled up outside the first few weeks we were in the building and we worked busily in our coats and gloves to get things ready for opening day--the first day of Spring Semester 2005. Everyone else on campus seemed to be equally as excited to see the new library. Our usage statistics skyrocketed that first semester.