

## **WILLIAM LEAZER**

**Date of Interview: November 4, 1995**

**Interviewer: Anne K. Robichaux**

### Summary

William Leazer, better known as Bill, played a significant role in the development of amenable relationships between librarians and players in the publishing world. As a representative of the publishing industry, Bill sought to build lasting friendships with librarians – particularly Southern Chapter librarians – not only for personal pleasure but also to learn more about the workings of the library profession. For the majority of his career (1971-1993), he worked for “the Majors boys” as Manager of the Serials/Continuations Division, Manager of the Journals Department, and finally as Vice President of Majors Scientific Subscriptions. When the Majors Journals Division was acquired by EBSCO in 1993, he became Special Projects Coordinator for their Biomedical Division. Even after his retirement from EBSCO, he remained active in the field by serving as Consultant for EBSCO’s Biomedical Division.

Bill’s career in publishing began rather by accident. “You can say I got into publishing because I didn’t know how to change diapers,” he jokes (for more on this story, please read the full transcript). Before being recruited to Majors, Bill worked at a New York music store and at a law firm representing British actors and actresses. His work with the law firm led to a remarkable professional relationship with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Eventually, his contacts led him to employment at Maxwell Scientific International, where he promoted and marketed Pergamon book titles, and at Springer-Verlag. Finally, at an MLA meeting in New York City, Bill decided to make a change. “I always had good rapport with the Majors at different meetings,” he says. “So I asked Bill Majors if he didn’t have a job for me and he said, ‘Well, sure!’ and I said, ‘Well, I’ll take it!’”

Fond memories of Southern Chapter meetings and events are prominent in Bill’s mind. He remembers fabulous banquets, riverboat rides, and cocktail parties. He recalls strolling in fabulous gardens, dancing on tables, and throwing cow chips. Most of all, though, he remembers the gracious people who made these events so memorable: Sarah Brown, Mildred Langner, Miriam Libbey, Irene Graham, Anne Kabler, Ada Seltzer, Anne Macomber, and many others. “Each and every one of the librarians involved with journals and serials/continuations have affected my development,” Bill says. “I felt we always worked as a team and I continue to feel this warm relationship to this day.”

*For a copy of the full transcript, contact the SC/MLA Archivist..*

Laura T. Kane  
July 23, 2004