7-27-1954

Letter to Sarah Leverette regarding a library statistics study, July 27, 1954

Lucile Elliott

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Miss Sarah Leverette  
Law Librarian  
Law School  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina  

Dear Sarah:

Your letters of July 14 and 16 both came after you were here and during the days when we were all (except Mary) editing the Proceedings of the Miami meeting, which was something akin to fighting fire. It was fiendish.

Your words of praise about the meeting please me because I wanted the folks of the south to be satisfied that we had all done our very tip top best. I was glad you were there and that you participated in the work.

I have written Mr. Payne that I cannot possibly accept his invitation to become a panel member on his statistical study. I suggested two people who had made recent studies on library statistics. Mary was one, and he chose her. I am glad because she will do well and he will be perfectly satisfied with her performance. He just doesn't know Mary yet.

I gave Mr. Payne as my reasons for withdrawing that I have the following previous commitments:

1. To edit the Proceedings.
2. To write a paper for publication.
3. To work with a team on a plan for The American Association of Law Libraries to present to a Policy Committee. This plan to incorporate the ideas advanced during the Miami Meeting.
4. To take over the Library while Mary and many of my staff are off on vacation.
5. To have a much needed vacation. (Which is the world's greatest understatement.)

I could have added 6: To fight the cruel heat. Mr. Payne was sympathetic and understanding. He admitted that I was too overloaded with work to take on more.
There is something else in this that I did not admit to him and that is that the Dean very likely will not pay our way since there is no Southeastern Librarian's meeting to be in Columbia at that time. I am bad off financially. When I come from my vacation I will be a fit subject for the poor house.

Dean Prince wrote me such a wonderful letter asking me to take part. He is like my own Dean---one person I hate to refuse. Will you break the news gently to him and then I'll write him later of my many reasons. If I could I would for his sake, but for the first time in thirty-two years I believe it is the part of wisdom to say "no". I have been stretched until there is no further elasticity in me.

You made and left a very good impression on the Coates. They liked you on first sight and that grew as you were with them during the all too short time you were here.

If you get the impression from this letter that our South Carolina friends have very special places with us, you will have gotten the right idea. Please make everything right with everybody. I am calling on you to represent me as my attorney.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lucile Elliott
Law Librarian