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In Memoriam: Marta G. Franco

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CUNY York College

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In Memoriam: Marta G. Franco



The York College Library is deeply saddened by the death of our beloved former colleague Marta Franco, who was a Lecturer and Head of Serials from 1970-1997.

Marta Garcia Franco was born on July 29, 1926 in Matanzas, Cuba, about 60 miles east of Havana. After receiving the degree of Doctora en Filosofia y Letras from the University of Havana, she received a B.A. in Literature from Havana's Villanova University (1950) before returning to the University of Havana to study Library Science. Marta's early professional work was as both a teacher and a librarian – she taught English at the Normal School for Teachers (Havana), and Spanish for the Poughkeepsie (New York) Board of Education, as well as the Professional Children's School in New York City. Prior to coming to York, Marta worked as a librarian at Villanova University (Havana), the Center for Inter-American Relations (New York), and Fashion Institute of Technology (New York). As her husband Avenol's career took him to different cities, Marta moved to different schools.

After being hired as a Lecturer at York College, she was required to go back to school for an ALA-accredited MLS, so she attended Queens College (MLS, 1972). Mrs. Franco was part of a group of serials librarians that compiled the *Queens County Union List of Serials*, as well as the *CUNY Union List of Serials*, both of which were invaluable resources for students and faculty (and Interlibrary Loan librarians), especially in the days before online catalogs. For many year she was the York Library's representative to the Executive Council of LACUNY, the Library Association of the City University of New York. Marta was instrumental in York developing an outstanding periodicals collection, both in print and on microfilm.

After retiring, Marta suffered a series of strokes that left her in a persistent vegetative state for more than a decade. She died at age 84 on July 24, 2011, a few days shy of her 85th birthday.



Congratulations to the Library's
graduating College Assistants:

Alyssa Bryan, BA Psychology

Ria Hutson, BA Journalism

Samantha Rossi – BA Journalism –

and CUNY Office Assistant:

Travis Hilton – M.P.A. John Jay

Best of luck in the future!

Marta was known for her bubbly personality and dedication to York students, and was quick to start dancing in the serials work room, always brightening the day of those around her.

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Prof. John Drobnicki

Acting Head of Technical Services