

Dorothy Gray Died October 19; Was MTA Librarian for 13 Years



Dorothy Gray

Dorothy Gray, who served as the MTA's Library Services Manager for 13 years, died Friday at her home in Parc LaBrea. A native of Winterville, Miss., who grew up in Yazoo City, she was 58.

Gray had suffered for some time from a lung condition and had been on a leave of absence since July from the MTA. According to her son, Nkosi, a wake will be conducted, Friday, Oct. 26, in Yazoo City, with burial in Jackson, Miss., the following day. A memorial service is planned for the following week in Los Angeles.

See [Memories of Dorothy Gray](#).

A graduate of Southern Illinois University with a degree in sociology, Gray earned a master's degree in library science at Columbia University. She moved to Los Angeles in the mid-1970s and worked as a legislative analyst in city government before joining the SCRTD in August 1988 as librarian.

At the SCRTD, Gray greatly expanded the library and the collection of transit memorabilia. She computerized the library catalog and made the Internet available to employees. Under her guidance, the library became a federal repository for transportation manuscripts and documents.

When the Gateway Headquarters building opened, Gray oversaw the development of a modern corporate library that now is recognized as one of the best transportation research resources in the industry – a library that fields information requests from all over the world. The MTA Library is one of the few corporate libraries that can make catalog entries directly into the Library of Congress.

Perhaps the most prominent daily evidence of Gray's creative work as a librarian are the displays she set up in the Headquarters lobby on subjects that ranged from transportation humor to the history of transit and the wedding traditions of Korea.

Dorothy Gray is survived by her son, Nkosi, and granddaughter, Sahar, 2, of New York City, and her father, four brothers and four sisters, all of Mississippi.

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