

An ALA Memorial Resolution Honoring Nancy E. Gwinn

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) lost a valued colleague on April 29, 2024, with the death of Nancy E. Gwinn;

Whereas Gwinn received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wyoming, a Master of Library Science from the University of Michigan School of Library Science, and a Ph.D. in American Civilization from George Washington University; Gwinn was a Fulbright Scholar and attended the University of Oxford;

Whereas Gwinn served as a reference librarian at the Library of Congress; Gwinn previously worked at the Council on the Library and Information Resources (CLIR) and the Research Library Group (RLG); as the associate director and program coordinator in RLG, she founded the RLG Preservation Program;

Whereas Gwinn served as the assistant director for library collections management at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries and became the director of the Smithsonian Libraries from 1997-2020; at the Smithsonian, Gwinn led the Smithsonian Libraries to expand its outreach services and engagement with its rare book and digital collections; under Gwinn's leadership, the Smithsonian Libraries to become a leading partner in creating the Biodiversity Heritage Library, a global consortium of natural history and botanical libraries focused on digitizing and providing access to works from their collections; Gwinn served as chair of the Biodiversity Heritage Library Members Council from 2011-2017;

Whereas Gwinn was professionally active, and published and presented extensively; Gwinn is the author or co-author of several books such as *Preservation Microfilming: A Guide for Librarians and Archivists* (1987) and *Federal Information Policies: Emerging Issues on Managing Information Resources* (1984);

Whereas Gwinn received numerous professional honors such as the 1988 Waldo Gifford Leland Award, the Ainsworth Rand Spofford President's Award by the District of Columbia Library Association, an honorary doctorate from the University of Wyoming; Gwinn was a major advocate supporting LIS student internships at the Smithsonian Libraries and at the University of Michigan School of Information, where she and her husband, John Y. Cole, maintained an endowment supporting such internship programs;

Whereas Gwinn was a visionary leader in international librarianship and the preservation of library and archival collections through collaborations and partnerships; Gwinn was a kind friend, colleague, and mentor to many; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA) and on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Nancy E. Gwinn over the course of her career and mourns her death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to her friends and family.

Mover: Raymond Pun, CALA Councilor

Seconder: Tarida Anantachai, Councilor-at-Large
Amanda Jones, Louisiana Chapter Councilor
Jim Neal, Councilor-at-Large
Dr. Corinthia Price, Councilor-at-Large
Ariene Lim, Councilor-at-Large
Ana Elisa de Campos Salles, Executive Board
Sophia Sotilleo, Executive Board
Adriana Blancarte-Hayward, Councilor-at-Large

Version: May 6, 2024 – 12:00 pm PT