

# News Release: American Library Association

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From: Peggy Barber, Director  
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Centennial Conference  
American Library Association  
Chicago

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July 18 - 24, 1976

Frank McKenna, Executive Director of the Special Libraries Association in New York City, was awarded a Special Centennial Citation by the American Library Association on July 19, during the Centennial Conference of the ALA in Chicago.

Dr. McKenna received a B.S. in Chemistry with honors from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Washington. His professional career included Research Chemist, S.A.M. Labs, Manhattan project Columbia; research supervisor, Carbide & Carbon Chemical Corporation; postdoctoral research fellow, Institute Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago; senior chemist, Air Reduction Company, Inc. He also served as editor of Special Libraries and manager, publications department of the Special Libraries Association.

The citation presented to Dr. McKenna reads:

In the past century a host of specialized library associations have emerged from the American Library Association. Each one has made its own contributions to the advancement of libraries. None has developed more aggressively or contributed more to the goals of American librarianship than the Special Libraries Association. Successively as President, Manager of the Publications Department, and, since 1970, Executive Director of the Special Libraries Association, Frank McKenna has energetically promoted cooperative efforts between the ALA and the SLA. He has made major contributions to U.S. copyright negotiations, has provided leadership as the senior library association official in this country, and served as a distinguished special librarian.

add 1. Special Centennial Citation - Frank McKenna

Frank McKenna came late to special librarianship. Educated as a physical chemist and beginning his career as a research chemist, he was appointed to organize the Air Reduction Company's Information Center in 1953. Under his leadership the Airco Information Center expanded its resources and services and became a model of "putting knowledge to work."

Frank McKenna brought this same energy and commitment to excellence to the Special Libraries Association. Under his direction the SLA has been revitalized and continues to be the major association for the special librarian. Through teaching and lecturing he is able to share his expertise with librarians both here and abroad. His dry wit has often mitigated the tense atmosphere of conference sessions. His wit is, perhaps, best noted in his description of the ideal characteristic of an information specialist, "Intelligently adventurous but not rash."

Frank McKenna has stated that one of his goals for special libraries is to "recognize and accept the challenges of excellence." This is truly a goal he sets for himself and his adopted profession.

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