

For Immediate Release
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G.K. Hall Award for Library Literature recipient named

James Rettig, assistant university librarian for Reference and Information Services at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., is the 1993 recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) G.K. Hall Award for Library Literature.

The award, \$500 and a citation donated by G.K. Hall & Co., recognizes an outstanding contribution to library literature issued during the three years preceding presentation.

Rettig received the award for the volume titled "Distinguished Classics of Reference Publishing" (Oryx Press, 1992).

Essays -- each approximately 10 pages in length - cover the development and history of 31 major English language reference sources. Each essay covers the origins, publication history, influence, present editorial practices and future plans of each work along with a bibliography. In the essays, 32 contributors, including Rettig, tell the stories behind such well-known classics as Bartlett's "Familiar Quotations," the "Encyclopedia Britannica," the "Guinness Book of Records," "Robert's Rules of Order," Roget's "Thesaurus, the "World Almanac" and the "World Book Encyclopedia."

Rettig has worked as head reference librarian at the University of Illinois at Chicago, reference librarian at the University of Dayton, Ohio and head reference librarian at Murray (Ky.) State University Library. He has also taught courses at the College of William and Mary, University of Chicago Graduate Library School and Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis.

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He is the author and editor of the "Current Reference Books" column in Wilson Library Bulletin, editor of Bibliographic Guides in the Humanities and a member of the Reference Services Review Editorial Board. Rettig has served as associate editor and assistant editor of the Reference Services Review.

Rettig is president of the Reference and Adult Services Division (RASD), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), and member of the OCLC Reference Services Advisory Committee. He has been a member of the ALA Council (1988-92), chair of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) College and Research Libraries News Editorial Board (1986-88) and a member of the RASD Board of Directors (1982-85).

He received the 1988 RASD Isadore Gilbert Mudge Award for "distinguished contributions to reference librarianship."

Rettig has a bachelor's degree (cum laude) and master's degree in English - from Marquette University and a master's degree in library science from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

The G.K. Hall Award for Library Literature Committee was chaired by Louise S. Sherby.

The award will be presented during the ALA Annual Conference, June 24-July 1, in New Orleans.