

Memorial Resolution Honoring Evan Farber

Whereas,

A dominant figure in the academic library world, Evan Ira Farber, library director emeritus of Earlham College developed a new concept of college libraries and college librarianship in the 1960s, '70s and '80s and encouraged hundreds of college students to enter the library profession; and

Whereas,

Evan Farber's first professional position was at Livingston State Teachers College in Alabama (1953-55), followed by a seven-year tour as serials librarian at Emory University, where he worked for his mentor, Guy R. Lyle, himself a nationally recognized librarian; and

Whereas,

As College Librarian at Earlham College from 1962 to 1994, Evan Farber pioneered a model of academic librarianship. He became one of the country's most articulate spokespersons for college librarianship and bibliographic instruction. Hundreds of academic leaders and librarians studied the model college library program he created at Earlham; and

Whereas,

Evan's leadership in college librarianship ran counter to the conventional wisdom of the time. Perhaps his most famous thesis, that "the library is *not* the heart of the college, the teaching-learning process is," not only rankled his peers, but also caused them to rethink their professional roles and the services offered by their libraries; and

Whereas,

In debunking such conventional wisdom, Evan illuminated the real importance of the college library and articulated ideas that today have become central tenants of modern librarianship: the meaningful value of a college library is the degree to which it helps students learn and faculty teach. College librarians' most important responsibility is to work closely with the teaching faculty to educate students about how to use information resources as a key part of their education; and

Whereas,

Evan's contributions are well documented in the collection of his writings titled *College Libraries and the Teaching/Learning Process* (Richmond, Ind.: Earlham College Press, 2008); and

Whereas,

Evan also advanced the academic library profession through his involvement in the American Library Association (ALA) and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) which he served as president in 1977. He was a member of the ALA Council, and a member and chair of numerous ALA and ACRL committees, including co-chair of the conference planning committee for the 1989 ACRL National Conference in Cincinnati; and

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Whereas,

To honor his many contributions the ACRL named Evan Farber Academic/Research Librarian of the Year in 1980. He also received the Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award in 1987, three honorary doctorates (St. Lawrence University, Susquehanna University, and Indiana University) and a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of North Carolina School of Library and Information Science; and

Whereas,

Evan Farber shared his wisdom through his mentoring of professionals throughout their careers, helping them respond to their challenges in diverse library settings. He generously gave advice to all types of library professionals, whether novice or veteran; and

Whereas,

Evan Ira Farber died peacefully on the morning of February 12, 2009; now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

That the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Dedicates itself to continuing the pattern of support and promotion of libraries exemplified by Evan Farber for so many years; and resolves to do so in his memory.
2. Sends copies of this memorial resolution to the Farber family and the current Director of Earlham College Library.

Resolved,

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Wednesday, July 15, 2009
In Chicago, Illinois



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and ALA Council Secretary