



A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING PATRICIA MEYER BATTIN

Whereas the library community and information profession lost a forward-thinking leader and key 20th century figure on Monday, April 22, 2019, with the death of Patricia Meyer Battin; and

Whereas Patricia Battin led the way beginning in the 1970s in preserving the content of 'brittle books' printed on acidic paper and urged libraries to expand beyond text-based, analog formats to adopting digital-based storage and retrieval systems; and

Whereas Patricia Battin was recognized as the Academic / Research Librarian of the Year by the Association of College and Research Libraries in 1990 and was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Bill Clinton in 1999; and

Whereas Patricia Battin was the first woman to be appointed director of an Ivy League library when she became Vice President for Information Services at Columbia University in 1978 and the first university librarian responsible for both library services and information technology; and

Whereas because she recognized the rising costs of books, serials, and information delivery and the need for research libraries to cooperate in containing costs, she worked with peer institutions to form the Research Libraries Group to assure the preservation of information in all formats and to improve staff capacity and information delivery; and

Whereas she was instrumental in convincing publishers to change to alkaline-based paper, in securing U.S. government funding to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a 20-year project to microfilm three million endangered volumes, and in 1987 she became founding director of the Commission on Preservation and Access, now the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR); and

Whereas in collaboration with CLIR and EDUCAUSE she designed the Frye Leadership Institute at Emory University to help develop leaders who understood the interdependence of libraries and information technology in curating and delivering information in the 21st century; and

Whereas she mentored countless library leaders, women and men, as they progressed through promotions and grappled with seismic changes of the digital age and its effects on libraries before, through and after the launch of the Internet and World Wide Web; and



Whereas her true legacies lie in preserving information for scholarship and for the generation of new knowledge into the future and in the vision she brought to the profession as it moved information from text-based and analog formats to digital storage and delivery systems; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes the significant legacy and contributions of Patricia Meyer Battin; and
2. offers condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Patricia Meyer Battin.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in Washington, DC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary W. Ghikas".

Mary W. Ghikas, Executive Director and
Secretary of the ALA Council