

**A Memorial Resolution in Honor of Dr. Ross J. Todd**

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), and the International Association of School Librarians (IASL), as well as the broader library community lost a valued leader on March 30, 2022 with the untimely death of Dr. Ross J. Todd;

Whereas Dr. Ross J. Todd was an associate professor and served as Director and Chair of the Rutgers University Department of Library and Information Science;

Whereas Dr. Ross J. Todd was a beloved and influential librarian, researcher, speaker and mentor, not only here in the United States, but in his home country Australia, and around the world;

Whereas Dr. Ross J. Todd began his career as a secondary teacher, then a teacher librarian in Australia and New Zealand, served as Senior Lecturer in Library and Information Science, and eventually Head of the Department of Information Studies in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia;

Whereas Dr. Ross J. Todd was globally recognized for his groundbreaking research investigating how children learn, how they build new knowledge from information and use information for learning, as well as the value of applying evidence-based practice to school librarianship;

Whereas, with Dr. Carol C. Kuhlthau, Dr. Ross J. Todd implemented the first comprehensive study of students' evaluation of their school library media centers, *Student Learning Through Ohio School Libraries* (2005);

Whereas Dr. Ross J. Todd was globally respected for his co-founding of the Center for International Scholarship in School Librarianship (CiSSL) and his teaching and mentoring of a generation of students and colleagues, as well as his contributions to the Treasure Mountain Research Retreats where he frequently presented and synthesized the professional learning;

Whereas through his research and teaching, Dr. Ross J. Todd was a tireless advocate for the transformative role of school librarians in school reform and improvement and their integral role in the learning fabric of school communities;

Whereas Dr. Ross J. Todd was globally loved and respected for his inspiring presentations and his engaging stories by his colleagues, students, and the countless friends he made across the world and across librarianship;

Whereas Ross J. Todd inspired a generation of library students, prepared them to lead learning communities driven by inquiry-based learning and evidence-based practice, challenging and coaching the advancement and promotion of the profession;

Whereas Dr. Ross J. Todd traveled to speak and teach as well as to learn and generously invited us to journey with him in seeing beauty of the world through his glorious photographs;

Whereas through his charm, graciousness, generosity and contagious wit, Dr. Ross J. Todd touched us, taught us, and brought out the best in all who had the honor to know him; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes the significant achievements of Dr. Ross J. Todd and gratefully acknowledges his many contributions to research and practice in the profession of librarianship, specifically in the field of school librarianship; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues around the world.

Mover: Joyce Kasman Valenza, Councilor-at-Large

Seconder: Diane R. Chen, AASL Division Councilor

Endorsements:

Sara Kelly Johns, ALA Councilor-at-Large

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Helen Adams, ALA Member

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Blanche Woolls, ALA Member

Terry Young, ALA Member

Nancy Zimmerman, ALA Member

#### References

Todd, R. J. & Kuhlthau, C. C. Student learning through Ohio school libraries, Part 1: How effective school libraries help students. *School Libraries Worldwide*, 11, no.1 (January, 2005): 63-88.

**2021-2022 ALA Memorial #8  
2022 ALA Annual Conference**

Todd, R. J. & Kuhlthau, C. C. (2005). Student learning through Ohio school libraries, Part 2: Faculty perceptions of effective school libraries. *School Libraries Worldwide*, 11, no.1 (January, 2005): 89-110.

Version 3, June 20, 2022