



## **Memorial Resolution Honoring George Needham**

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the broader library community suffered a profound loss on November 28, 2023, with the passing of George Needham, a valued and forward-thinking member and leader;

Whereas George Needham served as the Director of the Delaware County District Library from 2015 to 2022, bringing a wealth of knowledge, dedication, and innovation to that community;

Whereas George Needham dedicated more than 15 years of his career as the Vice President for Global and Regional Councils at OCLC in Dublin, Ohio;

Whereas he served with distinction as the State Librarian of Michigan from 1996 to 1999;

Whereas he held the position of Executive Director of the Public Library Association from 1993 to 1996;

"Whereas George Needham was named Hall of Fame Librarian by the Ohio Library Council in 2022."

Whereas George Needham's illustrious career also included various roles such as a reference librarian, branch manager, technologist;

Whereas he was a proud graduate of the University at Buffalo (New York), earning both his BA and MLS degrees;

Whereas George Needham's commitment to the library profession extended beyond the local level, as he was a frequent speaker at professional events, contributing chapters to several books, writing articles, recording podcasts for the Infopeople project in California, and reviewing numerous books and audiobooks, DVDs, and other materials for publications such as Library Journal, Booklist, The Columbus Dispatch, and AudioFile;

Whereas his passion for sharing knowledge and fostering a love for literature was further exemplified by his co-hosting of the weekly radio program "Off the Shelf," broadcast and streamed on WDLR-AM;

Whereas George Needham achieved a notable milestone in popular culture, earning the distinction of a two-time Jeopardy! Champion in December 1994, bringing a touch of non-library fame to his illustrious career; and



Whereas his impact on the library community and the countless individuals he inspired with his wit, passion, and warmth will forever be remembered and cherished, now, therefore be it

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

1. acknowledges George Needham's passing and celebrates the indelible mark he left on our community through his personal warmth, infectious sense of humor, and unwavering dedication as a leader, mentor, and advocate for the transformative power of libraries; and

2. extends its sincerest condolences to all whose lives he touched in the library world, his friends and family, and especially to his beloved wife, Joyce Leahy.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Sunday, January 21, 2024, ALA LLX, Baltimore, MD

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie Burger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leslie Burger, Interim ALA Executive  
Director, and Secretary of the ALA  
Council