

**2018-2019 ALA Memorial#10  
2019 ALA Annual Conference**

**A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING DR. CATHERINE PATRICIA RIESENMAN**

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) mourns the loss of a witty, dedicated, and kind colleague, with the June 7, 2019 death of C. Patricia Riesenman;

Whereas Pat was a vital contributor to the work of the Reference and User Service Association (RUSA) and Machine-Assisted Reference Section (MARS now the Emerging Technologies Section) serving as chair of the Education and Training of Search Analysts Committee and the Planning Committee, a member of the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, and the first MARS Scheduling Coordinator;

Whereas Pat was a recognized leader, awarded the 1997 MARS Achievement Award for her work as the first MARS historian/ archivist, leadership in section restructuring, and “good-humored master of all the details that make MARS work”;

Whereas Pat was a pioneering leader in establishing and shepherding the Computer Assisted Reference Service (CARS) at the Indiana University Libraries beginning in the late 1970s, providing reference assistance to students and faculty through mediated searching of online databases as well as training and encouragement to her colleagues as they learned to navigate this, then very new, technology;

Whereas Pat combined her early leadership in technology with a thorough grounding in the humanities, guiding students and faculty to the best resolution of their research problems;

Whereas Pat never failed to treat both the first-year student and the distinguished faculty member with the same helpfulness and kindness;

Whereas Pat played a pivotal role founding and developing the Indiana Online Users Group (IOLUG) in 1982 to further the use of online systems, databases, computers and telecommunication systems in all types of libraries;

Whereas Pat was active in her community as a member of the St Paul’s Roman Catholic Church Peace and Justice Committee and received the 2006 William Evans Jenkins Librarian Award from Indiana University’s Library Faculty Council;

Whereas Pat was an ardent world traveler and was part of the United States People-to-People Library and Information Science Delegation to China in 1985;

and

Whereas she will be remembered for her kindness, generosity of spirit, humor, intelligence, and expertise by her friends, colleagues, and those she encountered in her career and life, therefore be it

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

1. honors the memory of Catherine Patricia Riesenman by celebrating her service to reference librarianship, the Indiana University Libraries, and the ALA’s Reference and User Services Association (RUSA); and

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2. extends its sincerest condolences to her surviving family members including brothers Joseph Riesenman, Robert Riesenman, sisters Marian O'Leary, Ruth Riesenman, and nieces, great niece, nephews and great nephews.

Mover: Carol M. Tobin, Librarian Emerita, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 919-818-9760

Seconder: Pamela C. Sieving, Sieving Information Solutions, 734-717-6006

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