

ALA Memorial Resolution Honoring William Noel

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) lost a valued colleague on April 29, 2024, with the death of William Noel;

Whereas Noel earned his Bachelor of Arts in Art History and a Ph.D. in medieval manuscript studies at University of Cambridge;

Whereas Noel served as the John T. Maltzberger III '55 Associate University Librarian for Special Collections in Princeton University Library, and Chair of the Philadelphia Consortium of Special Collections Libraries; Noel was a curator and librarian specializing in the study of medieval and Renaissance European book, and in the application of the digital technologies;

Whereas Noel previously served as the Director of the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts, the Director of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, and as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Art History at the University of Pennsylvania; Noel also served as a Curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books at the Walters Art Museum and as an Assistant Curator of Manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum;

Whereas Noel was active professionally; Noel published and presented extensively on special collections and open data; with Reviel Netz, Noel co-authored *The Archimedes Codex: How a Medieval Prayer Book is Revealing the True Genius of Antiquity's Greatest Scientist* (2007); Noel was a faculty member and taught classes for the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia; in 2019; Noel delivered the Sandars Lectures in Bibliography;

Whereas Noel was a visionary thinker around the role of digital projects in special collections and collaboration across special collections at various institutions;

Whereas Noel was active in the Association of College and Research Libraries' Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS); Noel was a kind friend, colleague, and mentor to many; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of William Noel over the course of his career and mourns his death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his friends and family.

Mover: Raymond Pun, CALA Councilor

Seconder: Tarida Anantachai, ALA Councilor-at-Large  
Adriana Blancarte-Hayward, ALA Councilor-at-Large, Ramin Naderi, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Version: 4 pm PT, April 29, 2024

**2023-2024 ALA Memorial #10**  
**2024 ALA Annual Conference**