

Memorial Resolution for Fred McCrae Peterson

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) lost a valued member, and a respected colleague on September 6, 2025 with the death of Fred M. Peterson;

Whereas Fred M. Peterson was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on December 29, 1936 where he attended grade school, junior high school and high school. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BA in International Relations in 1958 and his MLS in Library Science in 1962. He earned his PhD from Indiana University in 1975;

Whereas his career began in the cataloging department at Iowa State University in 1961, became Assistant Director of Libraries and was Associate Director when he left in 1970 to enter doctoral studies program at Indiana University.

Whereas Dr. Peterson joined the faculty at the Catholic University of America as Assistant Professor in 1973, and later he was named Associate Director to the Library School. During his tenure in the School, he was supportive of many of the projects initiated by Dean Elizabeth Stone, particularly her efforts in continuing education. He helped plan and administer a pre-conference to IFLA in Chicago, the beginning of IFLA's Continuing Professional Education and Workplace Learning Section.

Whereas Dr. Peterson was named Director of Libraries at Catholic in 19??, he created an active Friends program that was headed by Julie Nixon. Working with Dr Elizabeth Stone during her year as President of the American Library Association, he encouraged her to initiate poster sessions and was named Chair of her newly created Poster Session committee. These poster sessions continue to the present at ALA conferences

Whereas, in 1982, he left Washington D.C. to become University Librarian at the Milner Library on the campus of Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, a position he held until he retired in 1996.

Whereas during his career, Dr. Peterson was active in both the American Library Association and the Illinois Library Association. For ALA, he served on the Committee on Accreditation 1993-95 and he chaired the nominating committee in 1985-86. Dr. Peterson served as president of the Illinois Library Association in 1989 and was awarded Librarian of the Year in 1994. He also wrote the definitions for the management entries in Heartsill Young's edition of the *ALA Glossary of Terms*.

2025-2026 Memorial #5
2026 ALA Winter Meeting

As Director of the Millner Library at ISU, he also served on the Illinois Library Association Board of Directors. In 1992, his library received the highest grant award from the Illinois Board of Education. He was for many years on the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee working closely to assure legislative attention to libraries in Illinois.

Whereas Fred was one of those extraordinary professionals who made sure projects in which he was involved were accomplished in a timely fashion and those who started them were given their credit, who shared his ideas to increase the likelihood that an idea would flourish. He made sure things worked. He was a constant and supportive colleague who shared his knowledge, experiences, and successes with all.

Whereas Dr. Peterson was known by his friends as a consummate host and opened his home for small and large occasions. He began traveling through Europe after earning his AB degree and continued to travel throughout the world the rest of his life, attending national and international conferences, and joining friends on riverboat and ocean cruises with friends.

Resolved that the American Library Association on behalf of its membership

1. recognizes the remarkable achievements of Fred McCrae Peterson as an administrator, an educator, and a national leader in the profession and acknowledges his many contributions to his colleagues and friends.
2. Conveys sincerest sympathy to his family, his sister-in-law, Mrs. William Peterson, and sister, Susan Berger and her husband, Ron, his many nieces and nephews, and to the Kreig children, Ann, Mike, and Eric.

Moved by: Daniel Matthews, Illinois Chapter Councilor

Seconder: Amanda Jones, Louisiana Chapter Councilor

Endorsed by: Blanche Woolls, ALA Member

Ken Haycock

David V. Loertscher, ALA Member