**Resolution on Renaming the Melvil Dewey Medal**

Whereas the American Library Association awards the Melvil Dewey Medal to recognize librarians for achievement for recent creative leadership of high order;[[1]](#footnote-1)

Whereas Melvil Dewey did not permit Jewish people, African Americans, or other minorities admittance to the resort owned by Dewey and his wife;[[2]](#footnote-2)

Whereas he was censured by the New York State Board of Regents for his refusal to admit Jews to his resort, whereupon he resigned as New York State Librarian;[[3]](#footnote-3)

Whereas Dewey made numerous inappropriate physical advances toward women he worked with and wielded professional power over;

Whereas during the 1906 ALA conference there was a movement to censure Dewey after four women came forward to accuse him of sexual impropriety, and he was ostracized from the organization for decades;[[4]](#footnote-4)

Whereas the behavior demonstrated for decades by Dewey does not represent the stated fundamental values of ALA in equity, diversity, and inclusion; now therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members, rename the Melvil Dewey Medal to remove Melvil Dewey's association with the award.

Mover's Name: Sherre L. Harrington  
Seconder's Name: Ahliah Bratzler

1. http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/melvil-dewey-medal [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. "Ask Regents to Depose State Librarian Dewey: His Company Runs Hotel, Called a Club, Which Bars Jews. Office as Advertisement So Used in Circulars Sent Out Describing Enterprise, the Petitioners Allege." New York Times (1857-1922), Jan 21, 1905. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. "Prof. Melvil Dewey Resigns.: Secretary of the State Board Of Regents of the University Gives Up His Office." New York Times (1857-1922), Dec 23, 1899. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Beck, Clare. "A "Private" Grievance against Dewey." American Libraries 27, no. 1 (1996): 62-64. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)