

HCL Anderson Award 1991

Citation: Fred Derek Osmond Fielding, MA, ALA, FLAA

Fred Derek Osmond Fielding has made a major contribution to Australian librarianship since he came to the country in 1960. He took up the appointment of Deputy University Librarian in the University of Western Australia in 1960, and was appointed James Forsyth Librarian in the University of Queensland in 1965. He has filled that position with distinction for 26 years, during which the University Library has made major advances in terms of collections, buildings and services. He has been an outstanding leader to his staff in the University Library, and also quite remarkable in the consistency of all of his communications to his senior staff and his academic and administrative colleagues.

The Association and the profession gain when senior practitioners play wider and distinguished roles in their working environments, and Derek Fielding has undoubtedly done this in the University of Queensland throughout his employment. His high standing is demonstrated by his Presidency of the University of Queensland Staff Association in 1970-72 and elected membership of the Senate of the University of Queensland from 1972-1983. He also chaired the Committee appointed by the new Vice-Chancellor to review the academic structure of the University in 1980. Derek Fielding has also played a significant role as a citizen in wider Queensland affairs, and in particular as President of the Queensland Council of Civil Liberties from 1975-79.

He has also given distinguished service throughout his career in Australia to the Australian Library and Information Association, of which he was elected a Fellow in 1970. He was President of the Queensland Branch of the Association in 1968-70 and 1983-84, and sat on the General Council on several occasions. He was Chairperson of the Brisbane Biennial Conference Committee in 1967, and of the 1984 joint LAA/NZLA Conference Committee in Brisbane. His overall contribution to the development of libraries and librarianship in Queensland has also been highly significant for the last 26 years. He has displayed a deep and continued interest in the development of the profession in areas outside his speciality, and has been a key figure in the unremitting exercise of pressure on Queensland Governments throughout those years.



Derek Fielding (on left) with Manfred Cross, Chairman of the State Library Board.

Mr Fielding has also made an outstanding contribution to the work of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services (AACOBS), and the establishment of its successor the Australian Council of Library and Information Services (ACLIS). This included a distinguished and hard-working period as a member of the AACOBS Standing Committee in 1968-72 and from 1976 until the abolition of AACOBS in 1988. He was the last Chairman of the Standing Committee from 1984-88, and played a key role as a member of the steering committee which negotiated the abolition of AACOBS and the Australian Libraries and Information Council (ALIC) and the transfer of their responsibilities to ACLIS. He then served as its first Interim President in 1988 and as a member of its National Council from 1988-90.

Derek Fielding has also given distinguished service to Australian librarianship in broader professional spheres. Examples include his membership of the Scientific and Technological Information Services Enquiry Committee (the STISEC Report) which was established by the Council of the National Library of Australia from 1971-73 to investigate the national need for more effective scientific and technological information services in

Australia. He subsequently was one of the major players in the professional debate over the need for a Australian National Information Policy, and was heavily involved in the writing of nearly all the profession's policy statements on this issue over the next decade. He was also one of the key figures in the national debate over freedom of information issues through the 1970s, and has represented the profession expertly throughout the 1980s on copyright matters. Since 1981 he has served on various committees on copyright established by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee, and has been an appointed member of the Commonwealth Government's Copyright Law Review Committee since 1983. A feature of his involvement in copyright has been his regular and lucid reports to the profession on new developments through *inCite* and other professional avenues. His other extensive writings reflect his professional concerns, and are in

the main about library administration, library buildings, and censorship issues.

Derek Fielding has made a long and distinguished contribution to libraries and librarianship in Australia and to the Australian Library and Information Association. He has given many years of sustained professional leadership to his colleagues in Queensland and of commitment to his profession in Australia. The General Council of the Association considers Derek Fielding to be a most worthy recipient of its highest award, the HCL Anderson Award. □

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