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“Rare Books and Special Collections” Receives ABC-CLIO’s Best Books in Library Literature Award at ALA Annual Conference

San Francisco, Calif. (June 28, 2015) – ABC-CLIO, an award-winning reference and scholarly non-fiction publisher is pleased to recognize Sidney E. Berger as the winner of the ABC-CLIO Best Books in Library Literature award at the 2015 American Association of School Librarians’ (AASL) awards ceremony. His book “Rare Books and Special Collections” published by ALA Neal-Schuman receives the award for assisting library professionals in areas of management, technique and education.

Sidney Berger holds an MS from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He also holds an MA in English and a PhD in Medieval English Literature and Bibliography, both from the University of Iowa. He served as the Ann C. Pingree director of the Phillips Library at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. Berger became responsible for overseeing a collection from private libraries encompassing artifacts dating back to the seventh century. He now continues to work with the museum as Director Emeritus. Alongside his instruction as a professor at Simmons College and GSLIS, Berger continues to research and write on subjects such as literature, fine press printing, and book history.

“Rare Books and Special Collections” was selected for this award for its in-depth discussion of the key elements of rare books and examination of the foundations and practices that are integral to special collections librarianship. The book is aimed at practitioners and instructors of library and information science, booksellers, private collectors, historians, bibliophiles, and others involved with rare and unique materials. Berger’s work supplies a body of knowledge that has been acquired through extensive research and personal experience. The book explores themes such as the profession’s history and its relevance in the face of an increasingly digital world, Collection development, cataloguing, instructions concerning the preservation of physical materials, legal and ethical issues, and the present state of books in our digital environment, among others.

The AASL Awards Ceremony is held during the annual American Library Association (ALA) conference highlighting the best practices in school library programming. The program is a public acknowledgment and celebration of school librarians that have modeled excellence in the profession.

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