

**University of California's Council of University Librarians'
Statement in Support of Dale Askey**

March 26, 2013

The Council of University Librarians (CoUL) of the University of California joins the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), and others in asking the founder of Edwin Mellen Press, Herbert Richardson, to drop his personal lawsuit against McMaster University librarian Dale Askey.

As academic librarians, we believe that freedom of expression is of paramount importance to the free flow of information in a civilized society. This freedom includes the right to voice one's opinion and to criticize. Librarians, as information professionals, are trained to evaluate vendor products when making purchasing decisions and advising patrons on the quality of reading materials. CoUL decries the chilling effect that a heavy-handed lawsuit, like that brought by Mr. Richardson, has on the library profession and on the ability of librarians to carry out their professional responsibilities.

Edwin Mellen Press has already dropped its lawsuit against Mr. Askey. We strongly encourage Mr. Richardson to do the same.