AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Item:	COPYRIGHT	*Item Number:*	102.1.2.2
Approved by:	ALA Council	*Page:*	1 *of* 1
Issue Date:	January, 1968	*Supersedes:*	

Copyright law and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

RESOLVED, That the ALA supports the National Commission to be created by S.2216, and

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the ALA strongly urges that the Copyright Revision Bill be amended to provide that such of its terms as relate to any copyright usage under study by the National Commission shall not become effective until the Commission has made its report and the recommendations contained therein have been acted upon by the Congress.

52.1.2.3

Cml
Jul 1976.

EXHIBIT 17

~~RESOLUTION ON~~ COPYRIGHT OF
GOVERNMENT FUNDED PUBLICATIONS

WHEREAS the Constitutional authorization of copyright is based on a trade-off of limited property rights in exchange for contributions to the country's general welfare, and

WHEREAS copyright is a private privilege which does conflict with public interest and is therefore granted subject to definite limitations, and

WHEREAS any material produced with public monies are by their orgins in the public domain,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Library Association strongly endorse the principle that publications produced with public monies remain free of copyright constraints, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ALA immediately communicate its endorsement of this principle to the appropriate Congressional committees and encourage individual members to do likewise.

Submitted by:
Father Jovian Lang
Councilor at Large

Endorsed by the Government Documents Round Table

REVIEWED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH
GUIDELINES
by Council Resolutions Committee

3:30 P.M. July 21, 1976
Jo Ann Bell

End of Section

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY

The American Library Association, founded in 1876, is the oldest and largest national library association in the world. Its concern spans all types of libraries: state, public, school and academic libraries, special libraries serving persons in government, commerce and industry, the arts, the armed services, hospitals, prisons, and other institutions. With a membership of libraries, librarians, library trustees and other interested persons from every state and many countries of the world, the Association is the chief spokesman for the people of the United States in their search for the highest quality of library and information services. The Association maintains a close working relationship with more than seventy other library associations in the United States, Canada, and other countries, and it works closely with many other organizations concerned with education, research, cultural development, recreation, and public service.

To facilitate library cooperation at all levels of government and to assist in interpreting library needs to the Congress, to federal and state executive agencies, and to the people of the United States, the Association maintains an office in Washington, D.C., in addition to its headquarters in Chicago. The American Library Association is the only nongovernmental organization at the national level representing all types of library and information services.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the American Library Association is to promote library service of excellent quality freely available to all. Because access to information and knowledge is and increasingly will be of critical importance to survival in today's rapidly changing society and is essential for self-fulfillment and the development of a more peaceful and prosperous world, the American Library Association has established the following major goals for the future:

1. The provision of public library service that will enable the public library to be a strong educational force to help every American fulfill his obligations as an informed citizen and achieve full self-development.

2. The provision in all educational institutions of library collections, services, and facilities fully adequate to support their programs of instruction and research and to stimulate a lively and continuing interest on the part of the student in reading and self-education.

3. Provision for rich collections to support research in all institutions or agencies so engaged, together with the establishment of a network among libraries to make available to all citizens the full range of their resources.

4. The development of a library profession adequate in numbers, education, training, and personality to provide in all libraries service of the high quality needed.

5. Increased support for and development of an active and extensive program of research, experimentation, demonstration, and evaluation in all fields of librarianship.

6. Continued efforts to secure and retain the commitment of all concerned with libraries to the principles of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS and the FREEDOM TO READ STATEMENT and to inform all people of the positions enunciated in these documents.

7. Increased participation in the development of libraries and librarianship throughout the world.

8. Mounting a vigorous and continuing program of public relations to make the American public increasingly aware of the contributions libraries make to society and to further local, regional, and national programs of library service.

9. A publishing program responsive to the needs, concern, and goals of the library profession and the American Library Association. -- Adopted by ALA Council, 30 June 1967.

A re-examination of American Library Association objectives during 1970-71 led to the establishment of the following priorities: social responsibilities; manpower; intellectual freedom; legislation; planning, research, and development; and democratization and reorganization of the Association.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY

The role of libraries in the well-being of the nation and its people has been recognized by the Congress of the United States both in the declaration of legislative policy and by financial support. Federal legislation has responded to the need of Americans of all ages, interests, and socioeconomic conditions for access to a wide range of knowledge through a variety of communications media.

The Association's policy on federal legislation is based on its objectives of promoting and improving library service and librarianship. Representing those who use libraries as well as those who operate them, the Association is a source of information on libraries and information services for those concerned with formulating and implementing federal legislation. Legislative action is considered especially pertinent in the areas described on the following pages.

1. DIRECT SUPPORT OF LIBRARY SERVICES

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Achievement of the objectives of the American Library Association calls for formulation of a national policy, enunciated by the President and enacted into law by the Congress, which affirms that the American people be provided with library and information services adequate to their needs and that the federal government, in collaboration with state and local governments and private agencies exercise leadership in assuring the provision of such services. The Association welcomes the establishment of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science as the central agency for national library planning and urges that the Commission be fully funded.

NATIONAL LIBRARY NETWORKS

The wide dispersion of population, rising levels of education, and the expanding volume of information, make increasingly difficult the rapid delivery of information to the citizen who needs it. The concept of the local library as possessor and purveyor of all needed information is obsolete. A national library network is needed through which all types of libraries, scattered across the nation, can cooperate in sharing resources. The tremendous task of providing such a network to serve all Americans requires central planning and coordination of effort. It also requires federal funding.

Examples of interlibrary cooperation might include the designation, development, and funding of national and regional library resource centers, the creation of inter-institutional catalogs, the formation of computer networks that will permit electronic transmission of bibliographic and other information (including that which is available in computerized data banks), and the joint operation of other communications facilities. Such activities are conceived as part of a systematic and coordinated program to expand America's existing library resources and make them more accessible. The Networks for Knowledge - Title of the Higher Education Act should be funded. If sufficient funding is obtained it should greatly accelerate the effort of libraries to form networks for sharing resources and services.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The American Library Association supports legislation that will broaden the availability of communications devices for educational purposes. In particular, it urges that libraries be recognized as prime potential users of satellite, microwave, cable communication and other means of information transmission which allow the linking together of libraries and users, as well as the forming of interlibrary networks. Easy and inexpensive availability of such linkages will help libraries to share resources and to carry out their mission of delivering service to all the people - wherever they may live and whatever their needs may be.

FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

Comprehensive federal aid to public education is needed to support the states and their subdivisions in establishing and maintaining adequate educational services and facilities and in equalizing educational opportunities. The success of federal programs of categorical aid to education clearly demonstrates the contribution the federal government can make to promoting broadened educational opportunities for all. Libraries across the nation - public, school and college - can continue to benefit from federal grants specifically directed to their needs, and, at the same time, participate in federal revenue sharing programs.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS

The school library Media center is an integral part of the school, supporting every aspect of the curriculum. Effective teaching and learning rely upon well-stocked school libraries, staffed by library media specialists. The federal government's recognition of the school library's contribution to the educational and cultural growth of children, and young people including the disadvantaged, is evidenced by such laws as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the National Defense Education Act, and the Higher Education Act.

The Association supports increased federal funds for professional library personnel and supportive staff in individual schools, in school systems, and at the state level; adequate collections of library books and other educational media; and facilities that will stimulate and strengthen school library services required in programs of quality education.

CAREER EDUCATION

The need for technically-trained workers in many fields of business, industry, and government has led to expanded state and federal funding of programs in vocational and technical education at elementary, high school, and junior college levels.

A serious lack of adequate library resources - books, periodicals, and audio-visual materials - for both existing and proposed programs, has led the Association to endorse legislation for federal career education that includes support for libraries.

COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES

As a vital part of higher education, library resources and services must be strengthened and expanded to meet the increases in student enrollment and to support new and changing programs of instruction and research. Increased support of university, college, and junior college libraries must be a part of increased funding of higher education. Any federal legislation which stimulates new or expanded educational programs should provide sufficient additional funds to meet the library material and personnel needs required for the success of these programs.

Substantial financial aid is needed by libraries in the nation's developing institutions if they are to overcome the many years in which they received little or no financial aid to support their educational programs. At the same time, major research libraries of the country need substantial financial aid if they are to continue to acquire the vast product of worldwide scholarship and make it available beyond their own academic communities.

Funds for library materials and personnel, federal scholarships and loans, special grants, research grants and contracts, assistance in building programs, and tax exemptions for educational institutions benefit the nation by improving the quality of higher education. The Higher Education Act has contributed immeasurably to the improvement of higher education by providing funds for library resources and facilities.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Public libraries are essential components of our total educational structure and are of social, educational, cultural, and economic benefit to citizens of all ages in every community. Their services and resources must be strengthened and expanded to meet growing needs of a diverse population for information, understanding, and self-realization.

Increased federal assistance is needed to strengthen basic library resources, both material and staff; to develop strong library systems; and to provide for adequate library facilities. Additional funding is needed to stimulate and assist public libraries in developing new programs and services that will help in meeting critical social and educational needs. Particularly critical is the need to bolster public library services in those urban areas where local tax income has dwindled while the educational needs of the residents have increased.

The Association also supports the inclusion of the public library in federal legislation designed to create or strengthen community services and programs of social and educational nature, including expansion of the library's role as a community information center designed to serve the special information needs of all members of the community.

STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES

State library agencies are central to the development of effective library services in a state. They are responsible for statewide library planning that provides for state support, for the effective administration and use of federal funds and for coordinated library development. They undergird and backstop the resources and services of other libraries in the states, and provide for services to state government, institutions, and special groups.

The Association supports federal legislation that will provide staff and material resources to state library agencies to enable them to discharge these responsibilities effectively.

SERVICE TO THE DISADVANTAGED

High among the Association's priorities is support of federal legislation that would help to redress the national imbalance in educational opportunities. The Association is committed to the provision of easier access to good libraries for those persons who are disadvantaged by reason of cultural, educational, or economic factors, or lack of mobility. Special library services and materials are needed by the aged, the disabled, those with learning difficulties, and those with limited skills in English, in order that they may claim their full share in our national life. The Association endorses the principles enunciated by the Right to Read program and urges that the necessary library resources be provided for the fulfillment of this right.

SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND HANDICAPPED

Substantial progress has been made in developing specialized library service to the blind and to the physically handicapped. The Association supports programs that will strengthen and expand library service not only to these persons but to all persons with reading handicaps. It encourages adequate financial aid from federal, state, and local sources to enable libraries to offer these specialized services.

SERVICE TO PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS

The Association advocates the provision of good library service including access to information for residents and staffs of correctional institutions, mental and general hospitals, nursing and medical schools, orphanages, and schools for the handicapped. Adequate financial support for these services should be provided through a federal-state-local partnership.

FEDERAL LIBRARY SERVICES

Library of Congress. The Library of Congress is the foundation upon which any program of national library service must rest. In addition to serving Congress, it performs more national library functions than does any other library in the world. These functions are vital to the library and research communities of the nation. Accordingly, the Association recommends that the Library of Congress be designated by Congress as the National Library.

The Association supports the improvement and extension of the present services of the Library of Congress and urges the Congress to provide adequate funding for an expanded program. The Association recommends that the Library of Congress undertake additional research programs in innovative library techniques and services and assume a greater leadership role in the development of national library resources - in the acquisition of foreign materials, in the provision of cataloging information, in the preservation of library materials and in the utilization of new technological advances in library and information science. The Association supports full implementation of the centralized cataloging services of the Library of Congress authorized under its National Program for Acquisition and Cataloging.

Other Federal Libraries. The National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine are also recognized as having national responsibility for collecting, organizing, and servicing research materials in their special fields. Librarians in other federal agencies have significant research collections and a considerable measure of national responsibility beyond the agencies they serve. Such federal libraries should receive financial and other support commensurate with these responsibilities.

Along with the Library of Congress, these specialized federal libraries should form part of a national library network serving the informational needs of the nation.

Bibliographic and Reference Services. Catalog card distribution and other bibliographical services of the Library of Congress and other federal libraries and agencies should be improved and expanded. Bibliographies produced by federal government agencies should be given wide distribution through libraries, and hence to the public, without the expense of middlemen. The Association supports the use of libraries as reference centers for providing scientific and technical information to business, industry, and government.

U. S. Office of Education. Adequate educational services and facilities and the equalization of educational opportunities are essential to our national welfare. The Association considers the U. S. Office of Education a primary agency in promoting the improvement of education and supports a fully developed and coordinated program of library services within the agency. A strong organizational unit within the Office of Education, headed by a deputy commissioner, should review and coordinate all library activities within the Office and exert leadership in planning and implementation.

The U. S. Office of Education should continue to improve its advisory and technical assistance in upgrading library education and the resources, services, and facilities of school, college, university, research, state, special, and public libraries; its preparation of valuable statistical compilations, research reports, and other essential library publication; and its responsible administration of programs of importance to libraries.

Public Access to Federal Documents. The Association supports freedom of public access to information about the federal government and its activities, as recognized in the Freedom of Information Act of 1966. It urges strict enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

Under federal law certain libraries across the nation have been designated as "depository libraries" to receive federal government documents and make them available to the public. The Association supports improvement and extension of the depository system, including provision of material in a variety of formats.

Vigorous agency support is needed to include more publications within the system, to establish an advisory and consultative program, and to promote closer liaison with cooperating libraries.

The Association recommends that comprehensive research studies be made of the federal depository library system together with the system of distributing state government publications within each state. The aim of such studies should be to develop a national plan for the distribution of government publications as an integral part of a national library network in order that information be more readily available to scholars, research workers, and the general citizenry.

2. INDIRECT SUPPORT OF LIBRARY SERVICES

EDUCATION OF LIBRARIANS AND INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

There is a continuing need for librarians, information specialists, and supportive staff who are qualified to carry out library programs in a rapidly changing society. Increased federal funding is imperative to improve the quality of preservice and continuing library education through scholarships, fellowships, and training institutes. Special attention needs to be given to educational programs that focus on the newer media, that recognize changing forms of service, and that consider problems brought about by the rapid proliferation of knowledge.

RESEARCH IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Federal support is needed to support research in library science and information storage and retrieval if libraries are to deal adequately with the "information explosion" and the increased demands for information from industry, government, and educational agencies, as well as from individual citizens. Innovative programs for library service must be developed to meet new needs of library users.

The federal government should encourage the collection and analysis of statistical data on all types of library services. Funding for the National Center for Educational Statistics in the U. S. Office of Education should be adequate to enable the Center to assist state library agencies to participate effectively in a national program of data collection and analysis.

PERSONNEL POLICIES AND EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

In order to fulfill the library's function of serving as an unbiased, non-partisan source of information, the Association supports library personnel programs based on the following: (1) a sound position classification plan; (2) selection and promotion based on competency, with persons chosen for their educational, professional, and personal qualifications, without discrimination against persons in regard to race, color, age, religion, sex, or national origin; (3) well-organized plans for in-service training; (4) salaries and fringe benefits equal to those enjoyed by personnel with comparable qualifications, including vacations, sick leave, and medical insurance; (5) an equitable and adequate pay plan with no discrimination as to sex; (6) flexible and actuarlally sound retirement plans;

(7) security of intellectual freedom; (8) tenure, with protection against discharge and demotion without adequate cause, fair hearing and adequate appeal procedures; and (9) aggressive recruiting of staff with due regard for strong ethnic group representation.

The Association supports a strong, flexible, and humane federal civil service system. Such a system will not only contribute to quality library service in federal libraries but, through its influence, will help raise standards for libraries throughout the nation.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission should be given strong and broad powers to eliminate discrimination.

POSTAL RATES

Recognizing that it is in the nation's interest to provide the widest possible dissemination of informational, cultural, and educational materials, the Association urges the continuation of preferential postal rates to libraries. The legislative history of the Act creating the U. S. Postal Service authorizes and urges the Postal Rate Commission to establish a preferential library rate, even if such rate involves subsidization of service.

The Association deplores any severe increase in postage rates for second-class matter over those which obtained prior to the Act, since this may lead to increases in subscription costs borne by libraries, and to the demise of many worthy publications.

TAXATION

The Association believes it is in the public interest that libraries as educational institutions, and the distribution of educational, cultural, and scientific materials used by libraries, not be unjustly burdened by taxation. Libraries and library materials are already frequently given special treatment and exemptions in the tax laws of federal, state, and local governments. In the various studies of tax policy either under way or contemplated, the application of this principle should be extended further.

The Association favors an Internal Revenue Act with interpretive regulations that will encourage gifts of personal and business papers to libraries, thus providing valuable primary source material for research in many areas.

STANDARDIZATION AND QUALITY CONTROL

In concert with other educational associations, the American Library Association supports federal efforts to insure quality control and standardization of technical equipment and products used by and serving libraries.

COPYRIGHT

The Association favors the passage of a United States copyright law that reflects changing techniques of communications and, at the same time, interposes a minimum of obstacles to the free distribution of ideas. Such a law should recognize that the fundamental constitutional purpose of copyright is to encourage creative endeavor and to protect the public interest.

PUBLIC WORKS

As a means by which library facilities may be extended and improved, the Association favors the inclusion of library buildings in legislation providing for programs of community development and public employment.

SURPLUS PROPERTY

The Association supports the policy of permitting libraries, like other educational institutions, to receive both real and personal surplus property.

3. INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The Association holds intellectual freedom to be indispensable to the preservation of those individual liberties and democratic institutions guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. Free communication in every form through all media is the foundation of intellectual freedom. The Association's position in support of intellectual freedom is set forth in its officially adopted LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS.

The Association supports the principle of freedom of the press and the right and responsibility of the news media to keep the American people informed of the actions of their government. The Association condemns loyalty oaths as a condition of employment and investigations which permit the discharge of an individual without a fair hearing. The Association also condemns negative loyalty oaths as a condition of election or appointment of library trustees. In the interest of intellectual freedom it urges that serious consideration be given to the recommendations of the National Commission on Obscenity and Pornography.

4. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Librarianship is a profession that transcends national boundaries. Efforts by government and individuals to promote international understanding place upon U. S. librarians the obligation to inform themselves about international issues and to intensify their efforts to promote understanding of international affairs. The American Library Association should continue its work with such international library groups as the International Federation of Library Associations and the International Federation for Documentation, with other national library associations, and with individual agencies and institutions abroad, assisting in the improvement of library services and librarianship.

UNITED NATIONS

The Association supports participation by the United States in those programs of the United Nations and its specialized agencies which, in fulfillment of the objective of the UN Charter, relate significantly and constructively to books, reading, and libraries. In the interest of promoting the work of the UN and its specialized agencies, the Association encourages promptness both in publication of UN documents and in their distribution to libraries.

UNESCO

The Association supports the principles of UNESCO as stated in the UNESCO constitution and endorsed by the government of the United States. Through its representation in the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO and through the work of its various committees and individual librarians, the American Library Association seeks to implement the UNESCO program in this country and abroad, particularly those aspects involving the development of library and bibliographic services throughout the world. It favors an adequate staff in the Department of State to facilitate this work.

The Association favors immediate implementation by the United States of the Florence Agreement (Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials) and the Beirut Agreement (Agreement for Facilitating the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Character).

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Association has long been active in programs for the improvement of library and bibliographic services in Latin America. It collaborates with the Library Development Program of the Organization of American States and favors strengthening the program to improve communication among the peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF PERSONS

The International Exchange of Persons program should be continued, and foreign visitors under the program should be given the opportunity to observe libraries in the country and to understand their contribution to American life. The exchange of librarians between this and other countries should be encouraged with government subvention to libraries and library schools for observation, study, and in-service training.

INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF PUBLICATIONS

The interchange of publications between the United States and other countries is essential for international understanding. Greater supply of books from abroad in American libraries should be encouraged by federal programs. Wide distribution of American publications abroad, subsidized with federal funds that would include expense of translations, should be given a high priority.

Improved exchange agreements for the flow of publications of all kinds (including official government documents) between American libraries and those abroad should be encouraged. Such exchange should be closely correlated with the projects of the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, other research libraries, and the U. S. Book Exchange.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

The easy importation of foreign books and other library materials for scholarly and research purposes and the continuance of customs policies which permit library materials to enter duty free under simplified customs regulations should be continued. (See also reference to the Florence and Beirut Agreements under UNESCO.)

UNITED STATES LIBRARIES ABROAD

To provide reliable information about the United States from diverse points of view, the Association encourages the federal government to provide adequate support for the establishment and maintenance of American information libraries abroad, staffed by experienced professional librarians. The Association favors the concept of a public-private mechanism that would assure the funding of such libraries as demonstrations of the way in which an American-style library can nourish the spirit of free inquiry.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT

The establishment of reciprocal copyright relationships with other countries through appropriate international arrangement such as the Universal Copyright Convention should be encouraged.

INTERNATIONAL POSTAL POLICY

The United States international postal rates on educational and cultural materials should continue to be based on the optional provision in the Universal Postal Convention which permits reduced rates. The Association endorses proposals made by UNESCO for the modification of the Universal Postal Convention to encourage wider and easier international distribution of educational and cultural materials.

ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Federally funded programs to help developing countries achieve their educational goals should be continued and should include assistance in the formation and improvement of libraries and information services, the development of local publishing capabilities, and the bibliographic ordering of products of the nation's press.

Note: The printed document ALA FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY, ALA, 1973, contains a fifth section "Existing Federal Laws Affecting Librarians, Libraries and their Users."

SECOND-CLASS POSTAL RATES AND THE FREEDOM TO READ

WHEREAS, Rapidly increasing second-class postal rates have endangered and, in some cases, ended the existence of needed periodicals, and

WHEREAS, It is clearly in the best interests of the freedom to read and essential to an informed electorate that a multiplicity and diversity of periodicals be maintained;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association endorses and supports the early passage of federal legislation to decelerate the rate of the rise in costs of the distribution of periodicals by second-class mail.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Item:	LEGISLATION	*Item Number:*	105.3
Approved by:	ALA Council	*Page:*	1 of 1
Issue Date:	July 1974	*Supersedes:*	

RESOLUTION ON EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, the condition of sex discrimination in the United States of America has been abundantly documented, and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees to women equal rights with men, and

WHEREAS, by reason of its beneficial implications for all persons in the American society, many professional organizations, such as NEA and AAUP, have endorsed adoption of the ERA, and

WHEREAS, ALA at its 1974 Midwinter Meeting adopted a policy requiring equal employment opportunity in libraries, and

WHEREAS, women constitute 82% of the library profession, and

WHEREAS, equal employment for this 82% of the library profession requires support of equal rights for women,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the ALA support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

End of Section

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Item: Legislation *Item Number:* 105.4

Approved by: ALA Council *Page:* 1 *of* 1

Issue Date: January 23, 1976 *Supersedes:*

WHEREAS The New York Public Library's research facility is one of the foremost in the United States, and

WHEREAS its standards and calibre of service, its resources as a repository for scholarly research, its image as one of the pre-eminent cultural institutions not only of the City of New York but also of the nation and the world are threatened, and

WHEREAS the stability of this great resource is being seriously jeopardized by the drastic diminution of funds from the public and private sectors, and

WHEREAS the reduction of services or the entire loss of this great national resource would result in both a real and psychological tragedy to the library world and users of libraries everywhere, and

WHEREAS the American Library Association recognizes the New York Public Library as a national educational and cultural resource and is dedicated to seeking acceptance of this status among appropriate national agencies,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the ALA Legislation Committee cooperate with the New York Public Library and The New York Library Association in designing a program resulting in federal legislation to assure the permanence of this great institution.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Item: Legislation *Item Number:* 105/5

Approved by: ALA Council *Page:* 1 *of* 1

Issue Date: July 1976 *Supersedes:*

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO URBAN LIBRARIES

WHEREAS, large urban public libraries have special problems and needs, and

WHEREAS, many of them today are in serious financial distress, and

WHEREAS, balanced intergovernmental funding at local, state, and federal levels is essential in order to achieve the content and quality of public library services for the citizens of the United States;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the American Library Association urges the Congress of the United States to amend the Library Services and Construction Act to provide a new title authorizing grants to the states for providing financial assistance to large urban public libraries in cities over 100,000 population.

End of Section

Legislation Council Je 1977

1976-77 ALA COUNCIL
Council Doc. 50

105.6.

RESOLUTION ON DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

WHEREAS: The Depository Library Program (Title 44, Chapter 19, United States Code) is designed to make United States government publications available for use by the general public and to insure their continued availability in the future, and

WHEREAS: The Congress is now considering revisions to the Depository Library Program to provide for depository designation of accredited law schools, and

WHEREAS: The extension of the Depository Library Program to libraries of accredited law schools would provide increased access to a broad spectrum of government publications to the general public, and

WHEREAS: The users of law school libraries have a need for access to government publications for reference and study, and

WHEREAS: Service to the general public could be increased by the creation of congressional depository vacancies (available for redesignation) when a law school library now operating as a depository library is designated a depository under the proposed legislation,

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the American Library Association endorses legislation which extends congressional designation of depository status to libraries of accredited law schools which accept the responsibilities (especially those provided in 44 U.S.C. 1911, including the free use of government publications in depositories) and the privileges of regular congressionally designated depository libraries.

Submitted by the Committee on Legislation

REVIEWED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH
GUIDELINES
by Council Resolutions Committee
SBB 1:50 pm 6/15/77

End of Section

American Library Association
Washington Office
110 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

ALA

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY

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ALA FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY

Adopted by the Council
of the
American Library Association
July 1, 1987

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PREFACE

Founded in 1876, the American Library Association is the oldest and largest national library association in the world. It is the only nongovernmental organization at the national level representing all types of library and information services. Nearly 44,000 member libraries, librarians and information specialists, library trustees, educators, and communicators share a common mission of promoting and improving library service and libraries.

Priorities of the Association are recognized and officially established to be the following:

Access to Information
Legislation/Funding
Intellectual Freedom
Public Awareness
Personnel Resources
Library Services, Development, Technology

The Association works closely with a broad spectrum of organizations concerned with education, research, cultural development, literacy, recreation, and public service. It maintains a close working relationship with more than seventy other library related associations in the United States, Canada, and other countries, and participates with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

For those concerned with formulating and implementing Federal legislation, the Association is a comprehensive source of information about libraries. The Association maintains an office in Washington, D.C., in addition to its headquarters in Chicago, to facilitate library cooperation at all levels of government and to assist in interpreting library needs to Congress, to Federal and state executive agencies, and to the people of the United States.

The Association's policies on Federal Legislation are based on its goal of ensuring excellence in the nation's library and information services. Particular areas of Federal legislative concern and action are described in this publication.

1 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

A democratic society depends on the Federal government ensuring the right of access for all its citizens to a comprehensive range of knowledge and a diversity of communications media. Through declaration of policy, by legislation, regulation, and the appropriation of financial support, the Executive Branch and the Congress of the United States have responded to citizen requests for a Federal role in support of libraries as vital institutions serving the needs and well-being of individuals and the nation. Thus, while most libraries are local institutions, under local control, the Federal government plays an essential role in helping ensure access to resources and services to all.

Open government is vital to a democracy. Federal policymakers must continue to recognize the unique role of libraries, their existing delivery systems, and inherent community base in the dissemination of information to the public. Recognizing the constraints of national security, privacy, efficient decision-making, and costs, the Federal government must continue to assume special responsibility to ensure that information produced or funded by the government is accessible to the people through the nation's libraries.

The Federal government also must provide leadership in the development and application of new technologies and services. Federal action can stimulate local pilot programs for innovative services designed for specific user groups, programs which require specialized materials, and education programs for library personnel.

Emerging technology is altering the profile of library service. The Federal government has initiated and facilitated cooperation, encouraged resource sharing among all types of libraries, and established standards and practices for development of quality library networks that extend beyond state and national boundaries.

The Department of Education through its mandate to assist librarians across the country raises standards of service and develops new programs to benefit library users. The Department not only administers effective grant programs to public libraries, elementary and secondary school libraries, academic and research libraries, but also provides leadership, technical assistance, and dissemination of information. These functions must continue.

The Federal government also pays a critical role in the compilation and timely dissemination of statistical information about libraries which is essential to long-range planning and library development.

In an age of international communication and interchange of re-

sources, the Federal government is pivotal in the development of libraries as institutions that transcend national boundaries. International protocols, participation in international organizations, transnational data flow and monetary policies are inherently within the domain of the Federal government.

In all, this Federal role complements, without supplanting, the basic responsibilities of state and local governments and institutions to assure quality library and information service.

2 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Public Access to Federal Information

The Association supports freedom of public access to information generated by the Federal government, a right recognized in the Freedom of Information Act of 1966, the Printing Act of 1895, the Depository Library Act of 1962, the Privacy Act of 1974, the Government In The Sunshine Act of 1976, and other statutes. It urges strict enforcement of the provisions of these acts. Security classification should be limited to significant areas of national security. The statutes and regulations governing security classification should promote open government.

Under Federal law, selected libraries across the nation are designated as depository libraries to receive Federal documents and make them accessible to the public. The Association supports improvement of the depository system and improved means of access to the designated depository collections.

Any review of policies relating to public access to Federal information should recognize these requirements:

- that all unclassified government information of public interest or educational value be collected and distributed to depository libraries for free public access;
- that comprehensive bibliographic control of all government publications be provided through nationally recognized databases and library networks;
- that all government publications and government produced information be disseminated in whatever format is most appropriate for the information, most cost effective, and most useful for government agencies, libraries, and the general public;
- that depository libraries be recognized and funded to operate as federal information centers for public access.

The Association endorses a comprehensive and coordinated sales program for government information which offers on a cost-recovery basis all government publications in whatever format, without pricing basic documents beyond the reach of nonprofit libraries and information centers responsible for providing public access to information.

Further, the Association affirms the need for a national program to provide, within the government, a comprehensive current and retrospective collection of Federal government publications and government-produced information for public access as a national collection which could serve as a library of the last resort. This program should also include information dissemination services such as collection and distribution of documents to depository libraries and information centers, bibliographic control, reference service, interlibrary loan, and photoduplication, as well as administrative guidance and oversight to depository libraries.

Equal Access to Library Service

High among the Association's priorities is support of Federal legislation that would help to redress the national imbalance in educational and informational opportunities. The Association is committed to the provision of access to libraries for those persons who are disadvantaged by reason of cultural, educational, or economic factors or lack of mobility. Special library services and materials are needed by the aged, the disabled, those with learning difficulties, and those with limited skills in English in order that they may claim their full share of our national life.

Access to library resources and services demands that individuals master the basic literacy skills to obtain information they want and to use information for their own and other's needs. Basic literacy skills are essential for self-fulfillment and fulfillment of each individual's role as a family and community member, as a citizen, jobholder, producer, and consumer. Library services and resources play a significant role in assuring that each individual acquire basic literacy skills. The Association urges that the Federal government continue and expand its leadership role and financial incentives to ensure that libraries pursue aggressive and effective programs to improve the rate of literacy.

Further, the Association endorses the concept that literacy is not a program to be implemented by education agencies alone but by a

coalition of agencies, including libraries, adult education agencies, labor, manpower training and others, working in a coordinated effort.

Substantial progress has been made in developing and extending specialized library services to the blind and to persons with other physical disabilities that prevent them from using conventional library materials. The Association encourages Federal financial aid for programs that will strengthen and expand library service not only to these persons but to those experiencing any physical barriers to information. The Association supports establishment of a national library service for the deaf and hearing-impaired with appropriate additional funding in an agency which is responsive to the needs of this constituency.

3 INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Believing that an informed citizenry is the very foundation of democracy, and that the Constitution guarantees open communication of ideas and information in every form through all media, the Association supports the right of libraries and information centers to disseminate materials on all topics of concern, no matter how controversial.

The Association rejects discrimination in library service and upholds the right of all persons to have access to library services, regardless of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, disability, economic condition, individual life-style, or political or social views.

The Association supports the freedom of the press and the right of the news media to inform the American public without fear of governmental reprisal or control. The Association supports as equally basic to democracy the right of authors, publishers and media producers to disseminate their works without imposition of a governmental imprimatur.

Believing that the world of ideas and information cannot be provincialized without destroying its integrity, the Association maintains that the American public has a right to access to the works and views of foreign authors, artists, and scholars. The Association further contends that free expression should not be suppressed through Federal regulation of travel abroad and the importation and exportation of information materials should not be used to suppress free expression.

The Association opposes restrictions on access to or dissemination of unclassified Federal government information. The Association also opposes requirements forcing present or prior Federal employees to submit any writings to official review before publication.

4 FEDERAL POLICIES

Postal Rates and Quality of Postal Service

The Association is concerned with postal rates for all classes of mail. Libraries and information centers use first class mail; some hold second class mailing permits. Second class mail rates are of concern to libraries and information centers because they affect the subscription rates of the numerous periodical publications that libraries must have for use of their patrons.

Libraries and information centers are also particularly concerned with two subclasses of fourth class mail: first, the library rate, used by publishers and distributors to mail materials to libraries and by libraries to provide vital interlibrary loan and books-by-mail services to persons in remote areas and to those who are disabled, homebound, or institutionalized; and second, the book rate, which covers books and other types of educational and cultural materials. Postal costs are passed on directly to libraries by publishers and other producers and suppliers of library materials.

The Association supports the revenue forgone and public service subsidies to the U.S. Postal Service. It supports the current law, which authorizes preferential library rates, and postal rates that reflect the educational and cultural value of books and materials. The Association supports free mailing privileges for the loan and return of braille and talking books and associated equipment for the blind and physically disabled. Elimination of this privilege would create a most serious financial barrier to recipients who desperately need these resources and to the institutions that lend them.

The Association urges that the 1976 Postal Amendments (PL 94-421) be interpreted by the U.S. Postal Service to permit libraries to mail materials to publishers and distributors at the same fourth class library rate that publishers and distributors may now use to mail materials to libraries.

Taxation

The Association believes it is in the public interest that libraries not be unjustly burdened by tax laws and their interpretation. Tax

policy should include recognition of the principle of special treatment and exemptions for libraries already recognized in Federal, state, and local tax laws. In light of the fact that the primary support of most libraries is derived from local levels of government, the Association endorses the principle that state and local taxes should be deductible from personal Federal income taxes.

The Association urges tax reform legislation that will encourage monetary contributions and gifts of artistic, literary, personal, and professional works to libraries to provide program support and valuable primary source material for research and scholarship.

Further, the Association urges passage of legislation which, recognizing the complex inventory requirements of the publishing and book distribution industry, eliminates the leveling of unfair taxes on that industry. Such taxes may reduce access to publications or lead to additional cost for educational institutions and libraries.

Copyright

The Association is concerned that the rights of creators of copyrighted works be advanced equally with the rights of the public to have access to those works. Accordingly, it supports the intended statutory balancing of rights in the Copyright Act of 1976, and it urges that guidelines, procedures, and interpretations relating to this act interpose a minimum of obstacles to the free and open distribution of ideas by all methods including print, microforms, audio, video, and electronic means.

The Association believes that the review at five-year intervals by the Register of Copyrights (mandated by Subsection 108(i) of the Copyright law) should be construed broadly to consider all methods of communicating, reproducing, and disseminating the work, and should include as a primary concern the impact of the law on users of all sizes and types of libraries and information centers. Any data collection efforts should include libraries, users, and copyright proprietors.

The Association supports a general prohibition against copyright for all works of the U.S. Government.

Preservation of Library Materials

The Federal role in the preservation of library materials extends not only to preserving collections in Federal institutions, including

the Library of Congress and the National Archives, but also to assistance in the preservation of other materials of historical and national significance, and to support for research and demonstration projects. The Association endorses a Federal role in the preservation of library materials to ensure that scarce resources are employed to the most productive use, that duplication of effort is avoided, that the latest scientific and technological advances are utilized, and that agencies, institutions, and the public are made aware of this critical problem.

5 FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Federal Libraries: A National Resource

Library of Congress. The Library of Congress is the foundation upon which any program of national library service must be based. It performs extensive national library functions that are vital to the library and research communities of the nation. The Association recommends that the Library of Congress be designated by the Congress as the National Library.

The Association supports the improvement and extension of the present services of the Library of Congress and urges Congress to provide adequate funding for expanded programs. The Association recommends that the Library of Congress expand its national library programs including the following: increased emphasis on research, reference, and bibliographic activities; increased acquisition and cataloging of foreign materials; development of the library's role as a national resource center for government publications, including Federal, foreign government, and international publications, to better serve both Congress and the nation; development and support of new information technologies; continuation of services which fulfill bibliographic needs of its nonresearch library constituents; expanded preservation program; increased microfilming of library materials threatened with deterioration; more research programs in innovative library techniques and services and more effective application of technology to meet the needs of the blind and physically disabled.

Other Federal Libraries. The National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine are also recognized as having national responsibility for collecting, organizing, and servicing research materials in their special fields. Libraries and information centers in other Federal agencies have significant research collec-

tions and a considerable measure of national responsibility beyond the agencies they serve and should receive financial and other support commensurate with these responsibilities. The specialized fields of these Federal libraries and information centers complement the Library of Congress and should form part of a nationwide library network.

The contracting out or privatization of entire Federal libraries and information centers jeopardizes the integrity of their resources and the quality of their services. The nature of these libraries and information centers; their close association with the policy making structures of their parent organization; their function as an institutional memory of Federal agency goals, missions and programs; and their potential role in a nationwide information network demonstrate clearly why they are not commercial activities. The American Library Association considers the U.S. Office of Management and Budget classification of Federal libraries as commercial activities as inaccurate and inappropriate and urges that library operations be removed from OMB's list of commercial activities.

Federal agencies should accept the mission of supporting national library service programs through the designation of their department libraries as national library resources. The Association supports the use of Federal libraries as reference and research centers for providing scientific and technical information to business, industry, and government.

Bibliographic and Reference Services

Distribution of bibliographic services and data of the Library of Congress, National Technical Information Service (NTIS) and other Federal libraries and agencies should be improved and expanded. Bibliographies and information resources produced by the Federal government either directly or by contract should be given wide public distribution through libraries and information centers without the expense of commercial handling.

National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

The United States National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) provides a national forum and serves as a catalyst for open discussion of issues relevant to library and information service, conducts research on critical issues, and provides unbiased information and advice to the President and the Congress.

The Association recognizes the critical need for the Commission and supports its program. The Association urges that the Commission be funded consistently at a level sufficient to pursue vigorously a national program for strengthening of library and information services, to support implementation of the recommendations of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, and to initiate further study and action on critical issues facing the library and information community.

U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education is the primary Federal agency for the promotion of quality educational services and facilities and the equalization of educational opportunities essential to our national welfare. The Association supports continuation of the Department of Education at the cabinet level. A program for the support and improvement of library services should be coordinated by a strong unit at the highest administrative level within the Department.

The Department of Education should continue to improve its advisory and technical assistance in upgrading library education and the resources, services, and facilities of school, college, university, research, state, special and public libraries.

The Association supports adequate funding and administrative recognition to ensure comprehensive, accurate, and timely collection and dissemination of statistical data relevant to libraries by the Center for Education Statistics. The data collection and dissemination is necessary to provide the information on which state and local officials base their decisions. It must be expanded and strengthened to enable libraries to make the maximum possible contribution to the information infrastructure of the nation.

National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives and Records Administration performs essential functions relating to the preservation, use, and disposition of the records of the U.S. Government. Its clientele includes Federal agencies, libraries of all types, scholars, genealogists, and the general public. To adequately fulfill its function it is essential that it continue as an independent government agency. Federal support of the National Archives should be sufficient to enable it to meet its obligations to Federal agencies, to pursue an active preservation pro-

gram, and to provide research and reference service to the public directly and through loan of materials to libraries for their users. The Association also supports the continuation and funding to the grant programs of the National Historical Publications and Records Administration, located within the National Archives.

National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities

The Association supports adequate Federal funding for the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities. The programs, activities, and research projects which the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities sponsor to make the arts more widely available and to relate a better understanding of the humanities to national concerns have implications for all types of libraries and expand upon the public's ability to draw upon existing resources. Further, the Challenge Grant programs of the endowments, which have begun to make an impact upon cultural institutions, deserve renewal if the private sector is to be stimulated to participate in the arts and humanities.

Federal Support for State Library Agencies

State library agencies are central to the development of effective library services in a state. They are responsible for statewide library planning, for effective administration and use of state and Federal funds, and for development of coordinated library services for the state's residents. Their mission is to create and support programs which strengthen the resources and services of all libraries in the state, to provide for service to state government, institutions and special groups, and to exert leadership in the development of resource sharing and networking. The Association endorses Federal legislation to provide funds for programs that address service priorities, material resources, and staff for state library agencies to enable them to discharge these responsibilities effectively.

Federal Aid to Libraries, Systems, Education Agencies and Institutions

The Association endorses comprehensive Federal aid to public education to enhance the capacity of the states and their subdivisions

to establish and maintain adequate educational opportunities. The success of Federal programs of categorical aid to education demonstrates the contribution the Federal government can make to promoting broadened educational opportunities for all. Libraries across the nation must continue to benefit from Federal grants specifically directed to their needs as well as the block grant programs.

School Library Media Centers

School library media programs are an integral part of the school, supporting every aspect of the curriculum and instructional program. Instruction in the use of libraries is a basis for life-long learning. Such instruction should begin during childhood years and continue as a goal of the educational process in order to prepare individuals with the independent information retrieval skills essential to sustained professional and personal growth. Effective teaching and learning depend upon access to library resources and instruction designed cooperatively by school library media specialists and teachers to meet the needs of students of differing abilities and backgrounds.

The Association endorses adequate funds for professionally trained school library media personnel and support staff in individual schools, in school systems, and at the state level, adequate collections of library books and materials, adequate technological means for providing access to information, and facilities that will stimulate and strengthen school library media services.

Technical, Professional and Vocational Institution Libraries

As the demand for technically trained workers in business, industry, science, and government accelerates, growing numbers of persons seek new vocations and training. Economic fluctuations, automation, and the pressure for improved productivity in American industry further exacerbate the situation. These factors have led to expanded needs at technical and professional educational institutions, vocational technical institutes, community colleges, four-year colleges and graduate schools. The Association endorses Federal legislation for career and retraining education that includes support for libraries.

College and Research Libraries

College and research libraries acquire, preserve, and disseminate the products of worldwide scholarship and utilize those materials in support of the educational and scholarly research programs of the institutions they serve. By participating in resource sharing programs, they make those materials available to students, scholars, and citizens throughout the nation. Yet the demands for books and materials are rising faster than college and university budgets. Many older, yet important, library books and materials are deteriorating faster than funds can be found to preserve them. Cooperative ventures, improved bibliographic control, and the application of new technologies can aid in meeting these economic challenges, but the cost of such solutions is often substantial.

The Higher Education Act has significantly helped college and research libraries address such issues in recent years. Through various programs and tax exemptions, funds have been provided for library books and materials, buildings, staff, research, training, resource sharing, and preservation.

The Association supports Federal programs which help college and research libraries effectively fulfill their roles in supporting the educational, research, and economic development programs to meet national needs.

Public Libraries

Public libraries, essential components of the total education structure, are of economic, educational, cultural and social benefit to citizens of all ages and occupations in every community. Their services and resources must be strengthened and updated constantly to meet the growing needs of a diverse population to enable people to function more effectively in the contemporary world.

Although the public library is a local institution, adequate public library services are a national concern, regardless of location or local taxing capability. The Association supports Federal assistance to the states to assure equal opportunity of access to library service for all. Federal programs that recognize local resources and local effort are needed to complement state and local efforts to develop and maintain adequate public library services throughout the country.

Federal assistance can strengthen basic library resources, both materials and staff. It can also enable libraries to extend and improve services to individuals and groups whose access to library and

information resources is limited to nonexistent. As part of intergovernmental funding, Federal assistance is critically needed to support state efforts to develop interlibrary cooperatives and networks linking all kinds of libraries, enabling them to coordinate and share their resources. The Association endorses Federal funding which reinforces state and local efforts to bolster urban public libraries that directly serve many people who neither live nor pay taxes in the central cities. Shared Federal funding is needed to assist the many libraries and information centers in suburban and rural areas whose delivery of public library services has been curtailed or is undeveloped because of inflation, high energy costs, and limited population bases.

The Association also supports the inclusion of public libraries in Federal programs designed to create or strengthen community services and to address social and educational needs, including expansion of the library's role as a community information center to serve the special information requirements of citizens with unique needs and problems.

Service to Persons in Institutions

The Association advocates the provision of library services, including access to information, for residents and staff of mental and general hospitals, correctional institutions, schools for the disabled and other institutions. Adequate financial support for these services should be provided through a Federal-state-local partnership.

Federal Support for Library Facilities

Library service is dependent on efficient, economical, and inviting library structures, furniture, and equipment. The Federal government should recognize its responsibility to all libraries for support of these requirements through funding of library construction, including funding for the Higher Education Act, the Library Services and Construction Act, and other programs. The Association endorses in particular construction programs that emphasize energy conservation, retrofitting for improved technology, and improved access for the disabled.

The Association favors the inclusion of library buildings in legislation providing for programs of community development and public employment.

The Association also supports the policy of permitting libraries, like other educational institutions, to receive both real and personal surplus property.

6 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

The creation, storage, and dissemination of information is becoming increasingly dependent upon the use of new technologies such as on-line computer networks, laser technologies, telecommunications technologies and media broadcast technologies. Since the computer is a vital vehicle for information access, it is important that all types of libraries provide access to information in electronic formats as well as professional assistance in using these systems. Libraries need to develop equitable policies that will preserve a broad freedom and equality of access to electronic data bases.

National Library and Information Networks

Individual libraries cannot independently meet the information needs of all users. Varying population levels, uneven distribution of library resources, increased educational needs for citizens of all ages, an expanding volume of information, and the rapid growth of electronic data bases and electronic publications necessitate that libraries and information centers work cooperatively to develop integrated networks. Facilitating such networking activities requires Federal funding. The effectiveness of nationwide library networking depends upon the participation of member libraries, particularly the nationally recognized research libraries and information centers. The Association supports adequate Federal assistance to ensure that school, academic, public, and special libraries can participate in such networks.

Technical Standards and Copyright Protection

Electronically stored and delivered information requires an infrastructure comparable to that existing for printed materials. It requires agreement on technical standards for storage and transmission in accepted formats, standards for compatibility in equipment design, and standards for the bibliographic description of electronic publications. Rights of authorship must be protected,

even though the storage and dissemination of the content is electronic. The Association supports a Federal role in the establishment of technical and bibliographic standards and the extension of copyright protection to electronic information and systems.

Telecommunications and Broadcast Media

The Association supports legislation that will ensure the availability of communications technology at preferential rates for dissemination of educational and library information. The Association urges that libraries and library networks be recognized as prime users of satellite, microwave, cable communications, and other means of information transmission which allow the linking of libraries and users. Congress should make certain that divestiture and deregulation of the telecommunications industry does not result in the imposition of prohibitively high telecommunications tariffs on libraries or the electronic networks that support and service them. The Association opposes deregulation of the broadcast media and the repeal of the Fairness Doctrine, including the "equal time" provision.

Information Technology Education

The ability to use electronic information systems is becoming a crucial part of one's ability to function in a democratic society. The Association stresses the importance of information technology education as a fundamental aspect of overall national literacy goals.

7 PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Education of Librarians and Information Specialists

Adequate funding is imperative to improve the quality of preservice, post-masters, and continuing library education for librarians, information specialists, and supportive staff through scholarships, fellowships, and training institutes. The Association supports Federal grants for institutional support of quality library education programs, for research and experimentation, for continuing education for the current workforce and of library education faculty, and for fellowships to recruit into the profession candidates qualified to meet tomorrow's information needs.

Research in Library and Information Science

Federal support is needed for research in library and information science if libraries and information centers are to deal with increased demands for information from individual citizens as well as from industry, government, and educational agencies. Numerous questions about how libraries and information centers can best provide information must be answered through systematic research especially when those questions relate to applications of new technologies and information delivery systems.

Personnel Policies and Employment Standards

The Association supports strong, flexible, humane, and equitable library personnel programs. The Association supports a Federal civil service system, which not only ensures quality library service in Federal libraries and information centers, but which through its influence, raises standards for libraries and information centers and salaries for library personnel throughout the nation. The Association opposes changes in the Federal civil service structure, such as contracting out entire Federal libraries to private contractors and revisions of classification and pay systems, which threaten the continuation of librarians as professionals in the Federal government.

The Association is committed to the selection, promotion and compensation of library personnel based upon equity, competency and affirmative action programs. The Association affirms that all persons in the library profession should be selected for their knowledge, skills and abilities, without discrimination in regard to race, color, age, religion, sex, disability, life-style, or national origin. The Association supports the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the elimination of discrimination and urges that it be given broad powers and adequate resources.

The Association supports the concept of comparable pay for comparable work and therefore supports legal and legislative efforts to achieve wages and benefits for library workers commensurate with wages and benefits in other occupations with similar qualifications, training, and responsibilities.

The Association supports the rights of library personnel to engage in collective bargaining on the same basis as their organization counterparts, such as other governmental or municipal employees and teaching faculty.

Education for Library Users

Utilization of information is basic to virtually every aspect of daily living in a democratic society, whether in formal pursuit of educational goals or in independent judgment and decision-making. In this post-industrial, increasingly complex society the need for information daily becomes greater. The Association recognizes that it is essential that libraries of all types accept the responsibility of providing people with opportunities to understand the organization of and methods of access to information, and it endorses Federal funding and support of programs that include instruction in the use of libraries as one of the primary goals of service.

8 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The Association has endorsed Congressional legislation calling for the sponsorship of a second White House Conference. Libraries are a national resource and Association members share a concern for providing the public with maximum access to this resource. In 1979 the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS), through the participation of over 100,000 citizens in state, territorial, and national assemblies, provided the impetus and planning to expand and improve the public's access to and awareness of libraries. Recommendations of the White House Conference provided a policy framework within which the legislative agenda for the last decade was formulated. The Association continues to work with the WHCLIS Task Force on implementing the White House Conference legislative recommendations consistent with this policy.

9 EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The Association supports the ratification of an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

10 INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Libraries and information services transcend national boundaries. The Association shall continue its work with international library

groups such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, other national library associations, and individual agencies and institutions abroad assisting in the improvement of library service and librarianship. The Association supports Federal international policy and regulations that promote transborder data flow among libraries and librarians and access by American libraries to international resources.

United Nations

The Association supports participation by the United States in those programs of the United Nations and its specialized agencies which, in fulfillment of the objective of the United Nations Charter, relate significantly and constructively to books, reading, libraries or information centers. The Association encourages promptness both in publication of United Nations documents and in their distribution to libraries.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Association supports the principles of UNESCO as stated in its constitution. The book, library, archival and General Information programs conducted by UNESCO have brought many positive benefits to both the U.S. and to the international library and information communities.

The Association regrets the decision of the United States to withdraw from membership in UNESCO and will support and encourage the resumption of active United States participation at the earliest possible date. In the interim, the Association urges the government to fund alternative mechanisms to pursue the goals of UNESCO and its General Information Program in the areas of free flow of publications and information across national boundaries and enhanced access to international resources for American libraries.

Organization of American States

The Association has long been active in programs for the improvement of library and bibliographic services in Latin America and it collaborates with the Library Development Program of the Organization of American States and favors strengthening the programs to improve communication among the people of the Western Hemisphere.

International Exchange of Persons

The Association supports the continuation of the International Exchange of Persons Program to give foreign visitors the opportunity to observe libraries in this country and to understand their contribution to American life. The exchange of librarians between this and other countries should be encouraged with government funding to libraries and library schools for observation, study, and in-service training.

International Flow of Publications

The Association supports the position that information in whatever form be permitted to cross borders freely. The interchange of recorded information in all its forms between the United States and other countries is essential for international understanding. Federal support should be given for the acquisition in American libraries and information centers of foreign books and library materials, translations, and international information. Wide distribution of American publications abroad, subsidized with Federal funds that would include expense of translations, should be given high priority.

The Association urges that improved exchange agreements for the flow of publications of all kinds, including official unclassified government documents and other recorded information, between American libraries and those abroad be closely correlated with the projects of the Government Printing Office, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, other research libraries, and the Universal Serials and Book Exchange, Inc. Efforts to improve transborder data flow should be encouraged and supported.

Florence Agreement

The Association favors implementation by the United States of the Nairobi Protocol liberalizing the Florence Agreement by removing tariff duties on additional educational, scientific, and cultural

materials, such as audio, visual, and microform materials. The Nairobi Protocol will benefit United States libraries, information centers and educational centers.

United States Libraries and Information Centers Abroad

The Association encourages the Federal government to provide adequate support for the establishment and maintenance of professionally staffed American libraries abroad. These libraries would provide reliable information about the United States from diverse points of view, and demonstrate the way in which the American library model can nourish the spirit of free inquiry.

International Copyright

The Association encourages the establishment of reciprocal copyright relationships with other countries through appropriate international arrangements such as the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

International Postal Policy

The United States international postal rates on educational and cultural materials should continue to be based on the optional provision in the Universal Postal Convention that permits reduced rates. The Association endorses proposals made by UNESCO for the modification of the Universal Postal Convention to encourage wider and easier international distribution of educational and cultural materials.

Economic and Educational Development Programs

The Association encourages the continuation of Federally funded programs to help developing countries achieve their educational goals. These programs should include assistance in the formation and improvement of libraries and information services, the development of local publishing capabilities, and the bibliographic organization of the countries publications.

11 EXISTING FEDERAL LAWS AFFECTING LIBRARIANS, LIBRARIES AND THEIR USERS

Adult Education Act	P.L. 91-230 as amended
Age Discrimination in Employment Act	P.L. 95-256 as amended
Agricultural Trade Development Assistance Act of 1954 (Title VII)	P.L. 83-480 as amended
Asbestos School Hazard Detection Act	P.L. 96-270
Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act	P.L. 99-177
Beirut Agreement - implementing legislation (Joint Resolution to give effect to the Agreement for Facilitating the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural Character, approved at Beirut in 1948)	P.L. 89-634
Civil Rights Act of 1964	P.L. 88-352 as amended
Civil Service Reform Act of 1978	P.L. 95-454 as amended
Communications Act of 1934	Ch. 652, 48 Stat. (18 & 47 USC)
Computer Fraud and Abuse Act	P.L. 98-473 as amended
Copyright Law (USC Title 17)	P.L. 94-553 as amended
Department of Education Organization Act	P.L. 96-88 as amended
Depository Library Act	P.L. 87-579 as amended
Education Consolidation and Improvement Act	P.L. 97-35 as amended
Education for Economic Security Act	P.L. 98-377 as amended
Education of the Handicapped Act	P.L. 91-230 as amended
Electronic Communications Privacy Act	P.L. 99-508
Elementary and Secondary Education Act	P.L. 89-10 as amended
Fair Labor Standards Act	P.L. 75-718 as amended
Federal Information Center Act	P.L. 95-491
Federal Property and Administrative Services Act (Sec. 203(j)(3))	P.L. 87-786 as amended
Florence Agreement implementing legislation (Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966)	P.L. 89-651 as amended

Freedom of Information Act	P.L. 89-487 as amended
General Education Provisions Act	P.L. 90-247 as amended
Higher Education Act of 1965	P.L. 89-329 as amended
Housing and Community Development Act (Title I)	P.L. 93-383 as amended
Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970	P.L. 91-648
Internal Revenue Code	USC Title 26
Japanese Technical Literature Act	P.L. 99-382
Job Training Partnership Act	P.L. 97-300 as amended
Library of Congress Books for the Blind and Handicapped	P.L. 89-522
Library of Congress American Folklife Center	P.L. 94-201 as amended
Library of Congress Deacidification Facility	P.L. 98-427
Library Services and Construction Act	P.L. 84-597as amended
Medical Library Assistance Act	P.L. 89-291 as amended
Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act	P.L. 87-256
National Archives & Records Administration Act	P.L. 98-497
National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Act	P.L. 91-345 as amended
National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act	P.L. 89-209 as amended
National Historical Publications and Records Commission	P.L. 93-536 as amended
National Science Foundation Act of 1950	P.L. 81-507 as amended
Older Americans Act	P.L. 89-73 as amended
Paperwork Reduction Act	P.L. 96-511 as amended
Patent and Trademark Laws	USC Title 35, Sec. 301
Postal Reorganization Act of 1970	P.L. 91-375 as amended
Presidential Libraries Act	P.L. 99-323
Presidential Records Act	P.L. 95-591
Rehabilitation Act	P.L. 93-112 as amended
Single Audit Act of 1984	P.L. 98-502
Social Security Act	P.L. 89-97 as amended
Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act	P.L. 95-471
Vocational Education Act of 1963	P.L. 88-210 as amended

End of Section