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60. LIBRARY SERVICES FOR THE POOR

The American Library Association promotes equal access to information for all persons, and recognizes the urgent need to respond to the increasing number of poor children, adults, and families in America. These people are affected by a combination of limitations, including illiteracy, illness, social isolation, homelessness, hunger, and discrimination, which hamper the effectiveness of traditional library services. Therefore it is crucial that libraries recognize their role in enabling poor people to participate fully in a democratic society, by utilizing a wide variety of available resources and strategies. Concrete programs of training and development

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61. Library Services to the Poor
(highlighted section only)

are needed to sensitize and prepare library staff to identify poor people's needs and deliver relevant services. And within the American Library Association the coordinating mechanisms of programs and activities dealing with poor people in various divisions, offices, and units should be strengthened, and support for low-income liaison activities should be enhanced.

60.1

60.1 Policy Objectives

The American Library Association shall implement these objectives by:

1) Promoting the removal of all barriers to library and information services, particularly fees and overdue charges.
2) Promoting the publication, production, purchase, and ready accessibility of print and nonprint materials that honestly address the issues of poverty and homelessness, that deal with poor people in a respectful way, and that are of practical use to low-income patrons.
3) Promoting full, stable, and ongoing funding for existing legislative programs in support of low-income services and for pro-active library programs that reach beyond traditional service-sites to poor children, adults, and families.
4) Promoting training opportunities for librarians, in order to teach effective techniques for generating public funding to upgrade library services to poor people.
5) Promoting the incorporation of low-income programs and services into regular library budgets in all types of libraries, rather than the tendency to support these projects solely with "soft money" like private or federal grants.
6) Promoting equity in funding adequate library services for poor people in terms of materials, facilities, and equipment.
7) Promoting supplemental support for library resources for and about low-income populations by urging local, state, and federal governments, and the private sector, to provide adequate funding.
8) Promoting increased public awareness—through programs, displays, bibliographies, and publicity—of the importance of poverty-related library resources and services in all segments of society.
9) Promoting the determination of output measures through the encouragement of community needs assessments, giving special emphasis to assessing the needs of low-income people and involving both anti-poverty advocates and poor people themselves in such assessments.
10) Promoting direct representation of poor people and anti-poverty advocates through appointment to local boards and creation of local advisory committees on service to low-income people, such appointments to include library-paid transportation and stipends.
11) Promoting training to sensitize library staff to issues affecting poor people and to attitudinal and other barriers that hinder poor people's use of libraries.
12) Promoting networking and cooperation between libraries and other agencies, organizations, and advocacy groups in order to develop programs and services that effectively reach poor people.
13) Promoting the implementation of an expanded federal low-income housing program, national health insurance, full-employment policy, living minimum wage and welfare payments, affordable day care, and programs likely to reduce, if not eliminate, poverty itself.
14) Promoting among library staff the collection of food and clothing donations, volunteering personal time to anti-poverty activities and contributing money to direct-aid organizations.
15) Promoting related efforts concerning minorities and women, since these groups are disproportionately represented among poor people.

End of Section

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Exhibit #28.1 CD #61

Exhibit M1

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LINDA F. CRISMOND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

50 EAST HURON STREET CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611 U.S.A.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 312-280-3205 DEPUTY DIRECTOR 312-280-3208
COUNCIL BOARD SECRETARIAT 312-280-3203 FAX 312-944-3897

This policy was adopted by the ALA Membership and the ALA Council at the 1990 ALA Annual Conference

POOR PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The American Library Association promotes equal access to information for all persons, and

WHEREAS, Poor people are affected by a combination of limitations, including illiteracy, illness, social isolation, homelessness, hunger, and discrimination, which create barriers that reduce the effectiveness of typical library service, and

WHEREAS, The number of poor children, adults, and families in America is increasing, therefore, it be

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association adopt the following policy on Library Service to Poor People, modeled on the ALA Minority Policy:

> The American Library Association promotes equal access to information for all persons, and recognizes the urgent need to respond to the increasing number of poor children, adults, and families in America. These people are affected by a combination of limitations, including illiteracy, illness, social isolation, homelessness, hunger, and discrimination, which hamper the effectiveness of traditional library services. Therefore, it is crucial that libraries recognize their role in enabling poor people to participate fully in a democratic society, by utilizing a wide variety of available resources and strategies. Concrete programs of training and development are needed to sensitize and prepare library staff to identify poor people's needs and deliver relevant services. And within the American Library Association the coordinating mechanisms for programs and activities dealing with poor people in various divisions, offices, and units should be strengthened, and support for low-income liaison activities should be enhanced.

The American Library Association shall implement these objectives by:

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15. Promoting related efforts concerning minorities and women, since these groups are disproportionately represented among poor people.

APOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA)
June, 1990, in Chicago, Illinois

Linda F. Crismond
Secretary of ALA Council

3.

POVERTY FACT SHEET

An estimated three million people are homeless nationwide, with more and more families with children becoming homeless.

[Safety Network, June 1989]

Percentage of American children living in poverty in 1979: 16%.
Percentage of American children living in poverty in 1987: 20%.

[Congressional Budget Office]

The number of members of family households seeking shelter has nearly doubled since 1984. In large jurisdictions, numbers of persons in sheltered families has more than quadrupled over the past four years, to over 60,000 in 1988.

[Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD, 451 7th St. SW, Washington, DC 20410]

During the eight years of the Reagan Administration, the average income of the poorest 20% of Americans fell 6.1% to $5107, while that of the richest 20% rose 11.1% to $68,775.

[U.S. House Ways and Means Committee, March 1989]

A U.S. Conference of Mayors survey of 27 major cities found that demand for emergency shelter increased an average of 25% in 1989. In 1988, the mayors reported an increase of 13%.

[Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities: 1989]

In a survey conducted by the Council of State Governments, 41 states reported that the size of their homeless population is increasing, 4 states reported that the number of homeless is not changing, 4 states did not respond to the survey, and one state reported that their homeless population was decreasing.

[Council of State Governments, Iron Works Pike, P.O. Box 11910, Lexington, KY 40578-9989]

Between 1978 and 1987, the number of full-time workers who remained poor rose by 43%. Full-time work at the minimum wage now leaves a family of three $2,900 below the poverty line, a family of four $5,000 short of it.

[National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, 1575 I St. NW, Washington, DC 20005, 202-289-1680]

AFDC grant levels in 1976 were at 89.7% of the poverty level.
AFDC grant levels in 1988 were at 66.9% of the poverty level.

[Women Work and Welfare]

Council III
Wednesday, January 27, 1993, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINORITY CONCERNS, CD#19, Exhibit 25. In the absence of the chair of the Minority Concerns Committee, Herbert Biblo, committee member, presented the report. Councilor Biblo moved that the Committee on Minority Concerns subsume the charge of the President's Committee on Cultural Diversity and change its name to Committee on Minority Concerns and Cultural Diversity. By **CONSENT**, Council referred the recommendation to the Committee on Organization.

Councilor Biblo moved that the Committee on Minority Concerns request the ALA Headquarters management to publish its affirmative action statistics and make them available to the membership. President Miller reported that the Executive Board had reviewed this item and recommended to Council that it request the Executive Director to disseminate the Utilization Analysis Report on ALA Staff. By **CONSENT**, Council approved the Executive Board's recommendation.

Council Biblo moved that ALA report back on the plans to implement the Poor People's Policy by Annual Conference at New Orleans, 1993. President Miller said that CD#17 contained the next activities to implement the policy, so it was not necessary to prepare an additional report.

OLOS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IMPLEMENTATION REPORT ON THE POOR PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY, CD#17, Exhibit 18. The report was revised and will be redistributed. The OLOS Advisory Committee will hold hearings on the policy beginning at the 1994 Midwinter Meeting.

1992-93 EBD#11.8
1992-93 CD#17

ALA POLICY #60
LIBRARY SERVICES FOR THE POOR: IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

The Advisory Committee of the Office for Library Outreach Services has reviewed the Policy on Library Services for the Poor and the analysis of said policy by the Coordinating Committee on Access to Information and are planning the following activities:

- Promote full stable and ongoing funding for existing and future legislative programs in support of low-income services, and for pro-active library programs that reach beyond traditional service-sites. Hearings will be held to bring this and other issues relevant to services to poor people to the membership for discussion of implementing the Policy on Library Services for the Poor.

- Promote consideration of poor people's concerns, by meeting with staff in ALA Publishing, ***American Libraries, Booklist, Choice*** and ***Book Links***, urging them to include more information on poor people and services to the poor and homeless in their publications, including production or review of materials that honestly address the issues of poverty and homelessness that deal with poor people respectfully and practically.

- Promote increased public awareness through programs displays, bibliographies and publicity. Continued emphasis on service to poor and homeless people from OLOS and its committee's and subcommittees and throughout ALA. Meet with the Public Information Office to ask for their support and expertise in publicizing the positive work that libraries and librarians can do in work with the poor.

Submitted by:
Virginia H. Mathews,
Chair, OLOS Advisory
Committee

Revised 2/12/93

1990-91 CD#63, PMC Report
June, 1991

Item #5

Poor People's Policy. The Policy Monitoring recommends that the Poor People's Services Policy, approved by Council at the 1990 Annual Conference, appear in the Manual as Item 60 which would read as follows: "The American Library Association promotes equal access to information for all persons, and recognizes the urgent need to respond to the increasing number of poor children, adults, and families in America. These people are affected by a combination of limitations, including illiteracy, illness, social isolation, homelessness, hunger, and discrimination, which hamper the effectiveness of traditional library services. Therefore it is crucial that libraries recognize their role in enabling poor people to participate fully in a democratic society, by utilizing a wide variety of available resources and strategies. Concrete programs of training and development are needed to sensitize and prepare library staff to identify poor people's needs and deliver relevant services. And within the American Library Association the coordinating mechanisms of programs and activities dealing with poor people in various divisions, offices, and units should be strengthened, and support for low-income liaison activities should be enhanced."

The objectives in support of this policy which were also adopted by the Council are currently under review by the Executive Board and the Coordinating Committee on Freedom and Equality of Access to Information. Accordingly, the Policy Monitoring Committee recommends that inclusion of these objectives in the Manual be deferred until the Board and Committee report out.

Item #6

The Policy Monitoring Committee recommends the deletion of the second sentence in Policy 50.3 which now reads" The American Library Association urges Congress to support legislation for a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held in 1991."

Part Three:

Item #7

Brief information report on pending PMC Business.

Judith K. Meyers
Stephen L. Matthews
Norman Horrocks, Chair

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