

Resolution on Support for Funding for Cataloging and Bibliographic Control at
the Library of Congress

- WHEREAS, The Library of Congress is the “de facto” national library and is perceived as such as the American library community and the international library community; and
- WHEREAS, The Library of Congress is the premier research library in the United States and in the global library community; and
- WHEREAS, The number of cataloging specialists at the Library of Congress has substantially decreased over the past five years; and
- WHEREAS, The Library of Congress takes a leadership role in cataloging standard-setting, development, and maintenance; and
- WHEREAS, The United States, including every type of library, library users from students to researchers to the general public, and to other users of metadata such as commercial enterprises like Google and Amazon, derives substantial economic benefit from the intensive specialization of the professional catalogers at the Library of Congress; and
- WHEREAS, The Library of Congress is a federal agency that operates in a political environment; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association (ALA) urges the Library of Congress to devote more resources to the training of professional bibliographic access librarians, both those employed at the Library of Congress and in other American libraries; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the ALA Executive Director instructs the Washington Office to advocate the petition for increased federal funding to support the work of bibliographic control at the Library of Congress by filling and expanding the number of bibliographic access positions; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the ALA Executive Director instructs the Washington Office to communicate this message in discussions with members of Congress and others.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, July 1, 2008
In Anaheim, California