

Resolution Reaffirming Support for National Open Internet Policies and “Network Neutrality”

Whereas America’s libraries “preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, options, and ideas” (53:8);

Whereas the Internet now serves as a platform for information exchange, intellectual discourse, civic engagement, creativity, research, innovation, and learning;

Whereas the terms “network neutrality” and “open Internet” refer to the use of high-speed Internet, including broadband, to deliver any content or to facilitate the use of any service in a neutral fashion without a preferential structure favoring some providers of content or services to the detriment of other providers;

Whereas public concerns are being raised that Internet service providers have incentives to restrict Internet openness and may act on these incentives in ways that would unconstitutionally burden freedoms of speech and assembly, and inhibit civic engagement, educational achievement, and economic growth;

Whereas the January 14, 2014, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit decision in *Verizon v. FCC* overturned the Open Internet Order and other Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules protecting net neutrality, this ruling, if it stands will fundamentally changes the open nature of the Internet;

Whereas the FCC has initiated a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) with Docket Number 14-28 and deadlines for public comment set for July 15, 2014, and reply comments by September 10, 2014;

Whereas America’s libraries, collect, create, and disseminate essential information to the public over the Internet, and serve as critical resources for individuals to access, create, and distribute content;

Whereas the American Library Association has long advocated for Internet policies that assure access to the widest possible variety of constitutionally protected content and services; and

Whereas network neutrality is essential to ensuring open and nondiscriminatory access to Internet content and services; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. reaffirms its support for network neutrality and open Internet policies that enable access in the library, through remote access to library resources, or by other means;
2. calls on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to codify network neutrality principles following its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), Docket Number 14-28;
3. encourages library supporters to become engaged in the FCC’s current Notice of a Proposed Rulemaking on network neutrality; and
4. urges library supporters to advocate for the development of enforceable policies, whether in legislative proposals or regulatory proceedings, that ensure that the Internet remains an open platform for activities

such as information exchange, intellectual discourse, civic engagement, creativity, innovation, and learning.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council
Tuesday, July 1, 2014, in Las Vegas, Nevada

Endorsed by:
The Intellectual Freedom Committee
Association of College and Research Libraries
Library Research Round Table
Office of Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee

Policy history:
Original resolution endorsed by ALA Council 6/28/06
See also: Policy: 53.8, 50.15 and CD #50, 6/26/84