

Resolution on the E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007 (S.2321)

WHEREAS, The federal government encourages the public to access on-line government information and services; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recognizes that public libraries and Federal Depository libraries “complement (federal) agency dissemination programs;” (Office of Management and Budget, *FY 2007 Report to Congress on Implementation of the E-Government Act of 2002*, http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/reports/fy2007_egov_report.pdf); and,

WHEREAS, Libraries are participating with federal, state, and local governments in the new opportunities to deliver E-Government resources to the public; and,

WHEREAS, Strengthening the role of libraries in this partnership improves the delivery of E-Government information and services to constituents at all levels of government and encourages transparency, accountability and citizen participation; and,

WHEREAS, This partnership places new demands on library staff and resources and incurs additional costs, including costs for computer workstations, Internet bandwidth, printing, and training; and,

WHEREAS, Research has demonstrated that people without access to the Internet at home will seek out their local library for no-fee Internet access and for the expert assistance provided by librarians; and,

WHEREAS, The *Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study, 2007-2008* (<http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/plftas/finalreport.pdf>), found that every day 74 percent of public library staff, by helping library patrons to understand and use E-Government resources, assist federal, state, and local governments in achieving their missions; and,

WHEREAS, The same study found that more than half of the librarians surveyed indicated that access to government information is one of the top three uses of public libraries’ Internet services; and,

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WHEREAS, Through the *E-Government Act* of 2002 (Public Law 107-347), Congress recognizes the importance of providing and promoting awareness of on-line government information services; and,

WHEREAS, The American Library Association (ALA) supported the *E-Government Act* of 2002, including the language in Section 213 of that law to "promote awareness of the availability of on-line government information and services, to users of community technology centers, public libraries and other public facilities that provide access to computer technology and Internet access to the public," and,

WHEREAS, Libraries need the appropriate recognition of their role, and the adequate funding to serve as willing partners in providing E-Government services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association

- urges Congress to re-emphasize its commitment to support the role of libraries in the delivery of E-Government services,
- supports the measures outlined in the *E-Government Reauthorization Act* of 2007 (S.2321) for the Director of the OMB to provide guidance and best practices to ensure availability of public on-line federal government information and services,
- supports language in the *E-Government Reauthorization Act* of 2007 to mirror the language in Section 213 of the *E-Government Act* of 2002 which recognizes the critical role public libraries play in providing E-Government services to the American public,
- urges Congress to authorize adequate funding to support the role of libraries in the delivery of E-Government services as expressed in Section 213 of the *E-Government Act* of 2002,
- supports the measures outlined in the *E-Government Reauthorization Act* of 2007 that will ensure compliance by federal agencies with the guidelines outlined by the OMB.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association

Wednesday, July 2, 2008

In Anaheim, California