

RESOLUTION ON CIVIL MARRIAGE EQUALITY  
REGARDLESS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court declared marriage to be one of the “basic civil rights of man” (Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1 (1967)); and
- WHEREAS, Same-sex couples can legally wed in several countries, and six U.S. states and the District of Columbia have legalized varying levels of marriage equality; and
- WHEREAS, Same-sex couples, including those who are library workers or library users, who live in states where only heterosexual couples may wed legally do not receive the same rights, including library privileges for partners, family and medical leave, tax equity, inheritance rights, hospital visitation, insurance and retirement benefits, family health care coverage, housing benefits, tuition remission benefits, adoption or birth leave; and
- WHEREAS, Legally wed same-sex couples, including those who are library workers or library users, lose rights and privileges afforded to wedded heterosexual couples when they cross borders into states and countries without marriage equality; and
- WHEREAS, American Library Association (ALA) Policy 1.5, Goal Area III, states that the goals of the Association include increasing ALA’s influence in promoting equity of access and fair use, and supporting grassroots efforts to influence local, state and federal policies and standards that affect library and information services; and
- WHEREAS, ALA Policy 54.3 (Equal Employment Opportunity) states that ALA is “committed to equal opportunity for all library employees or applicants for employment,” regardless of sexual orientation and in Policy 54.16 (Gay Rights) ALA “reaffirms its support for equal employment opportunity for gay librarians and library workers”; and
- WHEREAS, ALA Policy 60.3 (Combating Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination) states that ALA “actively commits its programs and resources to those efforts that combat prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination against individuals and groups in the library profession and in library user populations” on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; and

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WHEREAS, The Council of the American Library Association has an opportunity to voice their support to extend full civil marriage protections to all members of the library profession and library user population; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Affirms that civil marriage and other civil rights protections are essential to making all families safer and more secure; and
2. That ALA opposes civil marriage discrimination in the federal or in state constitutions; and
3. That ALA supports the right of every person to marry, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender couples, wherever they reside.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

In Chicago, Illinois



Keith Michael Fiels

ALA Executive Director and ALA Council Secretary