

WASHINGTON OFFICE

## AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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MÉMORANDUM

TO : ALA Council

FROM : Eileen D. Cooke, Director  
ALA Washington Office

SUBJECT: Revision of ALA Federal Legislative Policy

ALA's Federal Legislative Policy document was last revised in January 1979 in preparation for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Immediately following the historic conference, the Legislation Committee developed a very specific ALA Legislative Program based on WHCLIS recommendations. That program was adopted by Council at the 1980 Midwinter, and a revised ALA Legislative Program was adopted by Council at the 1982 Midwinter (CD #23.5).

Meanwhile, the Legislation Committee has also been involved in a revision of the more general legislative policy document, and it gave general approval to the attached draft at the Philadelphia conference. In addition, most ALA division boards (ALSC, ACRL, ASCLA, LITA, RASD, YASD) have given general endorsement to the draft. All divisions have been actively involved in the revision process through their representatives to the Legislation Assembly. The Committee also sought and received suggestions from many other ALA units.

The Legislation Committee, with the Executive Board's endorsement, now submits the proposed ALA Federal Legislative Policy to Council for adoption. If approved by Council, it will become part of ALA's official policy manual, and will also be published by ALA as a separate document.

EDC:ps

ALA FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY

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## ALA FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY

### PREFACE

Founded in 1876, the American Library Association is the oldest and largest national library association in the world. It is the only non-governmental organization at the national level representing all types of library and information services. Almost 40,000 member libraries, librarians and information specialists, library trustees, educators, and communicators share a common mission of promoting and improving library services and libraries.

Current priorities of the Association are recognized and officially established to be the following:

- Access to information
- Legislation/funding
- Intellectual freedom
- Public awareness
- Personnel resources

The Association works closely with a broad spectrum of organizations concerned with education, research, cultural development, recreation, and public service. It maintains a close working relationship with more than seventy other library associations in the United States, Canada, and other countries.

The Association is a source of information on libraries for those concerned with formulating and implementing federal legislation. To facilitate library cooperation at all levels of government and to assist in interpreting library needs to Congress, to federal and state executive agencies and to the people of the United States, the Association maintains an office in Washington, D.C., in addition to its headquarters in Chicago.

The Association's policies on federal legislation are based on its goal of ensuring excellence in the nation's library and information services. Particular areas of federal legislative concern and action are described in this publication.

### ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

A democratic society depends on the federal government ensuring the right of all of its citizens to access to a comprehensive range of knowledge and a diversity of communications media. Through declaration of policy, by legislation, regulation, and the appropriation of financial support, the Executive Branch and the Congress of the United States have responded to citizen pressure for a federal role in support of libraries as vital institutions serving the needs and well-being of individuals and the nation. Thus, while most libraries are local institutions, under local control, the federal government plays an essential role in helping ensure access to resources and services to all.

Open government is vital to a democracy. Federal policy makers must continue to recognize the unique role of libraries, their existing delivery systems, and inherent community base in the dissemination of information to the public. Recognizing the constraints of national security, privacy, efficient decision-making, and costs, the federal government must continue to assume special responsibility to ensure that information produced by the government is accessible to the people through the nation's libraries.

The federal government also must provide leadership in developing new technologies and services. Federal action can stimulate local pilot programs for innovative services designed for specific user groups, programs which require specialized materials, and education programs for library personnel.

Emerging technology is altering the profile of library service. The federal government has initiated and facilitated cooperation, encouraged resource sharing among all types of libraries, and established standards and practices for development of quality library networks that extend beyond state and national boundaries.

Through the Department of Education and its predecessors, the federal government fulfills its mandate to assist librarians across the country to raise standards of service and to develop new programs to benefit library users. The Department not only efficiently administers effective grant programs to public libraries, elementary and secondary school libraries, academic and research libraries, but also provides leadership, technical assistance, and dissemination of information. These roles must continue.

The federal government also plays a critical role in the compilation and timely dissemination of statistical information about libraries which is essential to long range planning and library development.

In an age of international communication and interchange of resources, the federal government is pivotal in the development of libraries as institutions that transcend national boundaries. International protocols, participation in international organizations, transnational data flow and monetary policies are inherently within the domain of the federal government.

In all, this federal role complements, without supplanting, the basic responsibilities of state and local governments and institutions in the assurance of quality library and information services.

#### WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Because libraries are a national resource, Association members share a national concern for providing the public with maximum access to this resource. The first White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS), through the participation of over 100,000 citizens in state, territorial, and national assemblies, provided the impetus and planning to expand and improve the public's access to and awareness of libraries. Recommendations of the White House Conference establish the policy framework within

which to formulate the legislative agenda for the near future. The Association continues to work with the WHCLIS Task Force on implementing the White House Conference legislative recommendations consistent with this policy.

I. FEDERAL PROGRAMS WHICH AFFECT LIBRARY SERVICES

A. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS)

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science provides a national forum for open discussion of issues relevant to library and information service, serves as a catalyst, conducts research on critical issues, and provides unbiased information and advice to the President and the Congress.

The Association recognizes the critical need for the Commission and supports its program. The Association further urges that the Commission be funded at a level sufficient to pursue vigorously the national program for strengthening of library and information services, to support implementation of the recommendations of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, and to initiate further study and action on critical issues facing the library and information community.

B. U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education is the primary federal agency for the promotion of quality education services and facilities and the equalization of educational opportunities which are essential to our national welfare. The Association supports continuation of the Department of Education at the cabinet level and the inclusion within the Department of a fully developed and coordinated program of library services. The Association endorses a strong unit at the highest possible administrative level within the Department of Education to be responsible for library issues. This agency should continue to review and coordinate all library and education technology activities within the Department of Education and to exert leadership in planning and implementation.

The Department of Education should continue to improve its advisory and technical assistance in upgrading library education and the resources, services, and facilities of school, college, university, research, state, special and public libraries. Emphasis should be on support for applied research and the need to improve the quality of staffing.

Collection and timely dissemination of statistics and other data about libraries by the National Center for Education Statistics must provide the solid information on which state and local officials base their decisions. The Association supports adequate funding and administrative recognition to ensure comprehensive, accurate, and timely collection and dissemination of statistical data relevant to libraries.

C. Nationwide library and information networks

The concept of local libraries independently meeting the information needs of all users is obsolete. Varying population levels, the uneven distribution of library resources, increased educational needs for all citizens of all ages, the expanding volume of information, and emerging communications technology demand that libraries and information centers work cooperatively in integrated networks.

The Association endorses a nationwide network through which all libraries join to share resources effectively with local, state and multi-state networks, representing both the public and private sectors. Facilitating such networking activities requires federal funding. Further, development of technical and bibliographical standards to ensure efficient system design and to accelerate implementation of a nationwide library network necessitate federal support.

The effectiveness of a nationwide library network depends upon the participation and expedient functioning of member libraries, particularly the nationally recognized research libraries and information centers. The Association supports adequate federal assistance to ensure that school, academic, public, special libraries and other information agencies serve as effective points of entry to the network.

D. Federal library services as a national resource

1. Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is the foundation upon which any program of national library service must be based. In addition to serving Congress, it performs more national library functions than does any other library in the world. These functions are vital to the library and research communities of the nation. Accordingly, the Association recommends that the Library of Congress be designated by Congress as the National Library.

The Association supports the improvement and extension of the present services of the Library of Congress and urges Congress to provide adequate funding for expanded programs. The Association recommends that the Library of Congress expand its national library programs including the following: increased emphasis on research, reference, and bibliographic activities; increased acquisition of foreign materials through the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging; development of the library's role as a national resource center for government publications, including federal, foreign government, and international publications, to better serve both Congress and the nation; expansion of its on-line bibliographic services to library networks; establishment of a service dedicated to fulfilling the bibliographic needs of its non-research library constituents; expanded preservation program; increased micro-filming of library materials threatened with deterioration;

more research programs in innovative library techniques and services and more effective application of technology to meet the needs of the blind and physically handicapped.

2. Federal libraries/information centers

The National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine are also recognized as having national responsibility for collecting, organizing, and servicing research materials in their special fields. Libraries and information centers in other federal agencies have significant research collections and a considerable measure of national responsibility beyond the agencies they serve. Such federal libraries should receive financial and other support commensurate with these responsibilities. The specialized fields of these federal libraries and information centers complement the Library of Congress and should form part of a nationwide library network.

Other federal agencies should accept the mission of supporting national library service programs through the designation of their department libraries as national library resources.

3. Bibliographic and reference services

Distribution of bibliographic services and data, including Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC), of the Library of Congress and other federal libraries and agencies should be improved and expanded. Bibliographies and information resources produced by the federal government either directly or by contract with private companies should be given wide public distribution through libraries and information centers without the expense of commercial handling.

The Association supports the use of federal libraries as reference and research centers for providing scientific and technical information to business, industry, and government.

4. National Archives and Records Service

The National Archives and Records Service performs essential functions relating to the preservation, use, and disposition of the records of the U.S. Government. Its clientele includes federal agencies, libraries of all types, scholars, genealogists, and the general public. Federal support of the National Archives should be sufficient to enable it to meet its obligations to federal agencies, to pursue an active preservation program, and to provide research and reference service to the public directly and through loan of materials to libraries for their users. The Association also supports the continuation and funding of the grant programs of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, located within the National Archives.

E. Public access to federal information

The Association supports freedom of public access to information generated by the federal government, a right recognized in the Freedom of Information Act of 1966. It urges strict enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

Under federal law, selected libraries across the nation are designated as depository libraries to receive federal government documents and make them accessible to the public. The Association supports improvement of the depository system and improved means of access to the designated depository collections.

Any review of policies relating to public access to federal information should recognize these requirements: that all government publications be collected and distributed to depository libraries for free public access; that comprehensive bibliographic control of all government publications be provided through nationally recognized data bases and library networks; that all government publications and government-produced information be disseminated in whatever format is most appropriate for the information, most cost effective, and most useful for government agencies, libraries, and the general public and that depository libraries be recognized and funded to operate as federal information centers for public access.

The Association endorses a comprehensive centralized or coordinated sales program for government publications which offers on a cost recovery basis all government publications in whatever format, without pricing basic documents beyond the reach of nonprofit libraries and information centers responsible for providing public access.

Further, the Association affirms the need for a national depository agency to provide a comprehensive current and retrospective collection of federal government publications and government-produced information for public access as a library of the last resort. Such an agency should also provide information dissemination services such as collection and distribution of documents to depository libraries and information centers, bibliographic control, reference service, inter-library loan, and photoduplication, as well as administrative guidance and oversight to depository libraries.

F. Federal support for state library agencies

State library agencies are central to the development of effective library services in a state. They are responsible for statewide library planning, for effective administration and use of state and federal funds, and for development of coordinated library services for the state's residents. Their mission is to create and support programs which strengthen the resources and services of all libraries in the state, to provide for service to state government, institutions and special groups, and to exert leadership in the development of resource sharing and networking. The Association endorses federal legislation to provide funds for programs that address service priorities, material resources, and staff for state library agencies to enable them to discharge these responsibilities effectively.

G. Federal aid to libraries, systems, education agencies and institutions

The Association endorses comprehensive federal aid to public education to enhance the capacity of the states and their subdivisions to establish and maintain adequate educational opportunities. The success of federal programs of categorical aid to education demonstrates the contribution the federal government can make to promoting broadened educational opportunities for all. Libraries across the nation -- public, school, college, and special -- must continue to benefit from federal grants specifically directed to their needs at the same time they participate in federal revenue sharing and block grant programs.

1. School library media centers

School library media centers are an integral part of the school, supporting every aspect of the curriculum and instructional program. Instruction in the use of libraries is a basis for sound continuing education. Such instruction should begin during childhood years and continue as a goal of the educational process in order to prepare individuals for the independent information retrieval essential to sustain life-long professional and personal growth. Effective teaching and learning depend upon access to library resources and instruction sufficient to meet the needs of students of differing abilities and backgrounds.

The Association supports adequate funds for professional library personnel and support staff in individual schools, in school systems, and at the state level, adequate collections of library books and other education media, facilities that will stimulate and strengthen school library services, and development of curriculum for instruction in the use of library resources and services.

2. Technical, professional and vocational institution libraries

As the demand for technically trained workers in business, industry, science, and government accelerates, growing numbers of persons seek new vocations and training. Economic fluctuations, automation, and the pressure for improved productivity in American industry further exacerbate the situation. These factors have led to expanded needs at technical and professional educational institutions, vocational technical institutes, community colleges, four-year colleges, and graduate schools. The Association endorses federal legislation for career and retraining education that includes support for libraries.

3. College and research libraries

College and research libraries acquire and preserve the products of worldwide scholarship and utilize those materials in support of the educational and scholarly research programs of the institutions they serve. By participating in resource sharing programs, they make those materials available to other students, scholars, and citizens throughout the nation. Demand for the materials and services has risen dramatically in recent years.

Each academic library must provide access to an ever-increasing amount and variety of informational materials needed to support the goals and objectives of parent institutions, yet the costs of such materials are rising faster than college and university budgets. Many older, yet important, library materials are deteriorating faster than funds can be found to preserve them. Cooperative ventures, improved bibliographic control, and the application of new technologies can aid in meeting these economic challenges, but the cost of such solutions is often substantial.

The Higher Education Act has significantly helped college and research libraries address such issues in recent years; through various programs and tax exemptions, funds have been provided for library materials, buildings, staff, research, training, resource sharing, and preservation.

The Association supports federal programs which help college and research libraries effectively fulfill their roles in the education community and national information community. Legislation which places additional demands on colleges and research libraries should specifically appropriate funds to meet those demands.

#### 4. Public Libraries

Public libraries, essential components of the total education structure, are of social, educational, cultural, and economic benefit to citizens of all ages and occupations in every community. Their services and resources must be strengthened and updated constantly to meet the growing needs of a diverse population to function more effectively in the contemporary world.

Although the public library is a local institution, the adequacy of its services is a national concern, regardless of where it is located or its taxing capability. The Association supports federal assistance to the states to assure equal opportunity of access to library service for all. Federal programs that recognize local resources and local effort are needed to complement state and local efforts to develop and maintain adequate public library services throughout the country.

Adequate federal assistance can strengthen basic library resources, both materials and staff; it can also enable libraries to extend and improve services to individuals and groups whose access to library and information resources is limited or nonexistent. As part of intergovernmental funding, federal assistance is critically needed to support state efforts to develop inter-library cooperatives and networks linking all kinds of libraries, enabling them to coordinate and share their resources. The Association endorses federal funding which reinforces state and local efforts to bolster urban public libraries that directly serve many people who neither live nor pay taxes in the central cities. Shared federal funding is needed to assist the many libraries and information centers in suburban and rural areas whose

delivery of public library services has been curtailed and/or undeveloped because of inflation, high energy costs, and limited population bases.

The Association also supports the inclusion of public libraries in federal programs designed to create or strengthen community services and to address social and educational needs, including expansion of the library's role as a community information center to serve the special information requirements of citizens with unique needs and problems.

5. Service to persons in institutions

The Association advocates the provision of good library service, including access to information, for residents and staff of mental and general hospitals, correctional institutions, schools for the handicapped, and facilities for runaway youth. Adequate financial support for these services should be provided through a federal-state-local partnership.

H. Federal support for library facilities

Library service is dependent on efficient, economical, and inviting library structures, furniture, and equipment. The federal government should continue to recognize its responsibility for support of these requirements through funding of library construction, including funding for the Higher Education Act, the Library Services and Construction Act, and other programs. The Association endorses in particular construction programs that emphasize energy conservation, retrofitting for improved technology, and improved access for the handicapped.

The Association favors the inclusion of library buildings in legislation providing for programs of community development and public employment.

The Association also supports the policy of permitting libraries, like other educational institutions, to receive both real and personal surplus property.

I. Equal access to library service

High among the Association's priorities is support of federal legislation that would help to redress the national imbalance in educational and informational opportunities. The Association is committed to the provision of easier access to quality libraries for those persons who are disadvantaged by reason of cultural, educational, or economic factors or lack of mobility. Special library services and materials are needed by the aged, the disabled, those with learning difficulties, and those with limited skills in English, in order that they may claim their full share of our national life.

Access to library resources and services demands that individuals master the basic literacy skills to obtain information they want and to use information for their own and others' needs. Basic literacy skills are essential for self-fulfillment and fulfillment of each individual's role as a family and community member, as a citizen, job-holder, producer, and consumer. Library services and resources play a significant role in assuring that each individual acquire basic literacy skills. The Association urges that the federal government take a leadership role to ensure that the states initiate aggressive programs to improve the rate of literacy. The Association further urges that the federal government provide financial incentives to states to develop these literacy programs. Further, the Association endorses the concept that literacy is not a program to be pursued by education agencies alone but by a coalition of agencies, including libraries, labor, manpower training and others, working in a coordinated effort under the leadership of the United States Department of Education.

Substantial progress has been made in developing and extending specialized library services to the blind and to persons with other physical handicaps that prevent them from using conventional library materials. The Association supports programs that will strengthen and expand library service not only to these persons but to those experiencing any barriers to information. It encourages adequate financial aid from federal, state, and local sources to enable libraries to offer these specialized services and to complement other related federal programs such as library materials for the blind and physically handicapped individuals provided by the Library of Congress.

The Association supports establishment of a national library service for the deaf and hearing impaired with appropriate additional funding in an agency which is responsive to the needs of this constituency.

J. Preservation of library materials

The federal role in the preservation of library materials extends not only to preserving collections in federal institutions including the Library of Congress and the National Archives, but also to assistance in the preservation of other materials of historical and national significance, and to support for research and demonstration projects. The Association endorses a federal role in the preservation of library materials to ensure that scarce resources are employed to the most productive use, that duplication of effort is avoided, that the latest scientific and technological advances are utilized, and that agencies, institutions, and the public are made aware of this critical problem.

K. Telecommunications

The Association supports legislation that will ensure the availability of communications technology at preferential rates for dissemination of educational and library information. The Association urges that

libraries and library networks be recognized as prime users of satellite, microwave, cable communication and other means of information transmission which allow the linking of libraries and users. Coordinated, inexpensive availability of such linkages is essential for libraries and information centers to share resources and deliver service to all people, wherever they may live and work and whatever their library needs may be.

The Association also endorses the concept of public access to expanded telecommunication delivery systems along with the separation of control of delivery of information from the content of the message.

L. Postal rates and quality of postal service

The Association is concerned with postal rates for all classes of mail. Libraries and information centers use first class mail; some hold second class mailing permits. Second class mail rates are also of concern to libraries and information centers because they affect the subscription rates of the numerous periodical publications that libraries must have for use of their patrons.

Libraries and information centers are also particularly concerned with two subclasses of fourth class mail: first, the library rate, used by publishers and distributors to mail materials to libraries and by libraries to provide vital interlibrary loan and books-by-mail services to persons in remote areas and to those who are handicapped, homebound, or institutionalized; and second, the book rate, which covers books and other types of educational and cultural materials. Postal costs are passed on directly to libraries by publishers and other producers and suppliers of library materials.

The Association supports the revenue foregone and public service subsidies to the U.S. Postal Service. It supports the current law, which authorizes preferential library rates, and postal rates that reflect the educational and cultural value of books and materials. The Association supports free mailing privileges for the loan and return of braille and talking books and associated equipment for the blind and physically handicapped. Elimination of this privilege would create a most serious financial barrier to recipients who desperately need these resources and to the institutions that lend them.

The Association urges that the 1976 Postal Amendments (PL 94-421) be interpreted by the U.S. Postal Service to permit libraries to mail materials to publishers and distributors at the same fourth class library rate that publishers and distributors may now use to mail materials to libraries.

M. Taxation

The Association believes it is in the public interest that libraries not be unjustly burdened by tax laws and interpretation. Studies of

tax policy either underway or contemplated should include recognition of the principle of special treatment and exemptions for libraries already recognized in federal, state, and local tax laws.

The Association urges tax reform legislation that will encourage gifts of artistic, literary, personal, and professional works to libraries to provide valuable primary source material for research and scholarship.

Further, the Association urges passage of legislation which, recognizing the complex inventory requirements of the publishing and book distribution industry, eliminates the leveling of unfair taxes on that industry. Such taxes may reduce access to publications or lead to additional cost for educational institutions and libraries.

N. Standardization and quality control

The Association supports federal efforts to ensure quality control and standardization of technical equipment and products used by libraries and information centers, and bibliographic standardization of books and audiovisual library materials.

O. Copyright

The Association is concerned that the rights of creators of copyrighted works be advanced equally with the rights of the public to have access to those works. Accordingly, it supports the intended statutory balancing of rights in the Copyright Act of 1976, and it urges that guidelines, procedures, and interpretations relating to this act interpose a minimum of obstacles to the free and open distribution of ideas by all methods including print, microforms, audio, video, and computers.

The Association believes that the review at five-year intervals by the Register of Copyrights (mandated by Subsection 108(i) of the Copyright Law) should be construed broadly to consider all methods of communicating, reproducing, and disseminating the written word, and should include as a primary concern the impact of the law on users of all sizes and types of libraries and information centers. Any data collection efforts should be directed at libraries, users, and copyright proprietors.

The Association supports a general prohibition against copyright for all works of the U.S. Government.

P. National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities

The Association supports adequate federal funding for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities. The programs, activities, and research projects which the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities sponsor to make the arts more widely available and to relate a better understanding of humanistic

knowledge to national concerns have implications for all types of libraries and expand upon the public's ability to draw upon existing resources. Further, the Challenge Grant programs of the Endowments, which have begun to make an impact upon cultural institutions, deserve renewal if the private sector is to be stimulated to participate in the arts and humanities.

## II. PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION

### A. Education of librarians and information specialists

Adequate funding is imperative to improve the quality of preservice, postmasters, and continuing library education for librarians, information specialists, and supportive staff through scholarships, fellowships, and training institutes. The Association supports federal grants for institutional support of quality library education programs, for research and experimentation, for continuing education for the current workforce and of library education faculty, and for fellowships to recruit into the profession candidates qualified to meet tomorrow's information needs.

### B. Research in library and information science

Federal support is needed for research in library and information science if libraries and information centers are to deal adequately with increased demands for information from individual citizens as well as from industry, government, and educational agencies. Numerous questions regarding how libraries and information centers can best provide information must be answered through systematic information gathering and analysis, especially when those questions relate to applications of new information technologies and information delivery systems.

### C. Personnel policies and employment standards

In order to fulfill the library's function of service as an unbiased, nonpartisan source of information, the Association supports strong, flexible, humane, and equitable library personnel programs. The Association supports a federal civil service system, which not only ensures quality library service in federal libraries and information centers but which, through its influence, raises standards for libraries and information centers and salaries for library personnel throughout the nation.

In order to facilitate the selection and promotion of library personnel based on equity, competency, and affirmative action programs with persons chosen for their knowledge, skills and abilities without discrimination in regard to race, color, age, religion, sex, physical or mental handicap, individual life-style, or national origin, the Association supports the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the elimination of discrimination and urges that it be given broad powers and adequate resources.

The Association fully supports the concept of comparable wages for comparable work that aims at levels of pay for female-oriented occupations equal to those of male-oriented occupations: ALA therefore supports all legal and legislative efforts to achieve wages for library workers commensurate with wages in other occupations with similar qualifications, training, and responsibilities.

The Association supports the rights of library personnel to engage in collective bargaining on the same basis as their organizational counterparts, such as other governmental or municipal employees and teaching faculty.

D. Education of people who may use libraries

Utilization of information is basic to virtually every aspect of daily living in a democratic society, whether in formal pursuit of educational goals or in independent judgment and decision making. In this post-industrial, increasingly complex society the need for information daily becomes greater. The Association recognizes that it is essential that libraries of all types accept the responsibility of providing people with opportunities to understand the organization of information, and it endorses federal funding and support of programs that include instruction in the use of libraries as one of the primary goals of service.

E. Orientation and education of public library trustees

Because the quality and extent of public library services are greatly influenced by the initiative and knowledge of public library trustees, supplementary federal funds should be available for orientation and education of trustees in order that they can better carry out their responsibilities.

III. INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Believing that an informed citizenry is the very foundation of democracy, and that the Constitution guarantees the free communication of ideas and information in every form through all media, the Association supports the rights of libraries and information centers to disseminate materials on all topics of concern, no matter how controversial.

The Association rejects discrimination in library service and upholds the right of all citizens to have access to library services, regardless of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, handicap, economic condition, individual life-style, or political or social views.

The Association supports the freedom of the press and the right of the news media to inform the American public without fear of governmental reprisal or control. The Association supports as equally basic to democracy the right of authors and publishers to disseminate their works without imposition of a governmental imprimatur.

Believing that the world of ideas and information cannot be provincialized without destroying its integrity, the Association maintains that American citizens have a right to access to the works and views of foreign authors and scholars. The Association further contends that federal regulation of travel abroad and the importation of information materials should not be used to suppress free expression.

IV. EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The Association supports the ratification of an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

## V. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Libraries and information services transcend national boundaries. Efforts by government and individuals to promote international understanding place upon U.S. librarians the obligation to inform themselves about international issues and to intensify their efforts to promote understanding of international affairs. The Association shall continue its work with international library groups such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, other national library associations, and individual agencies and institutions abroad, assisting in the improvement of library service and librarianship.

Further, the Association supports federal international policy and regulations that promote transborder data flow among libraries and librarians and access by American libraries to international resources.

### A. United Nations

The Association supports participation by the United States in those programs of the United Nations and its specialized agencies which, in fulfillment of the objective of the U.N. Charter, relate significantly and constructively to books, reading, libraries, and information centers. In the interest of promoting the work of the U.N. and its specialized agencies, the Association encourages promptness both in publication of U.N. documents and in their distribution to libraries.

### B. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Association supports the principles of UNESCO as stated in the UNESCO constitution and endorsed by the government of the United States. Through its representation in the U.S. National Committee for the UNESCO General Information Program and through the work of its various committees and individual librarians, the Association seeks to implement the UNESCO program in this country and abroad, particularly those aspects involving the development of library and bibliographic services throughout the world. It favors an adequate staff in the Department of State to facilitate the work.

### C. Organization of American States

The Association has long been active in programs for the improvement of library and bibliographic services in Latin America. It collaborates with the Library Development Program of the Organization of American States and favors strengthening the programs to improve communication among the people of the Western Hemisphere.

### D. International exchange of persons

The International Exchange of Persons program should be continued; foreign visitors under the program should be given the opportunity

to observe libraries in this country and to understand their contribution to American life. The exchange of librarians between this and other countries should be encouraged with government funding to libraries and library schools for observation, study, and in-service training.

E. International flow of publications

The interchange of recorded information in all its forms between the United States and other countries is essential for international understanding. A greater supply of books and other library materials from abroad in American libraries and information centers should be encouraged by federal programs. Wide distribution of American publications abroad, subsidized with federal funds that would include expense of translations, should be given high priority.

The Association supports the position that information in whatever form be permitted to cross borders freely and that no artificial barriers be erected to prevent other countries from receiving and supplying informational materials.

The Association urges that improved exchange agreements for the flow of publications of all kinds, including official government documents and other recorded information, between American libraries and those abroad be closely correlated with the projects of the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, other research libraries, and the Universal Serials and Book Exchange, Inc. Efforts to improve transborder data flow should be encouraged and supported.

F. Florence Agreement

The Association favors immediate implementation by the United States of additions or a protocol to the Florence Agreement and the Beirut Agreement removing tariff duties on audiovisual, educational, scientific, and cultural materials. The Agreement will benefit United States libraries, information centers, and educational centers, which are the primary importers of such materials. The Association also supports protocol provisions requiring licenses and foreign exchange on certain materials imported.

G. United States libraries and information centers abroad

To provide reliable information about the United States from diverse points of view, the Association encourages the federal government to provide adequate support for the establishment and maintenance of professionally staffed American libraries abroad. The Association favors the concept of a public-private mechanism that would assure the funding of such libraries as demonstrations of the way in which the American library model can nourish the spirit of free inquiry.

H. International copyright

The Association encourages the establishment of reciprocal copyright relationships with other countries through appropriate international arrangement such as the Universal Copyright Convention.

I. International postal policy

The United States international postal rates on educational and cultural materials should continue to be based on the optional provision in the Universal Postal Convention that permits reduced rates. The Association endorses proposals made by UNESCO for the modification of the Universal Postal Convention to encourage wider and easier international distribution of educational and cultural materials.

J. Economic and educational development programs

The Association encourages the continuation of federally funded programs to help developing countries achieve their educational goals. These programs should include assistance in the formation and improvement of libraries and information services, the development of local publishing capabilities, and the bibliographic ordering of products of the nation's press.

VI. EXISTING FEDERAL LAWS AFFECTING LIBRARIANS, LIBRARIES AND THEIR USERS

(To be appended)