

Resolution on GPO Appropriations

WHEREAS, The Government Printing Office (GPO) Depository Library Program is the primary provider of free public access to federal government information, reaching the entire citizenry through the system of 1400 depository libraries nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Lack of budgetary resources has caused GPO to depart from past guidelines which identify appropriate publications for conversion to microfiche (SOD 13, August 22, 1983); and

WHEREAS, GPO has exceeded the limits of acceptability to users by distributing to depository libraries over 60 per cent of its current titles in microfiche; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Printing is reviewing pilot projects for the dissemination of government information in electronic format to increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the provision of government information to the public; and

WHEREAS, The GPO appropriation for FY 1987, totaling \$22,256,000, is less than the 1986 appropriation for library programs and not adequate to continue needed programs such as dual distribution (paper and microfiche) of major publications central to the activities of a democratic government and heavily used by the public, such as the Code of Federal Regulations and congressional hearings, prints, and reports; and

WHEREAS, GPO's funding request for FY 1988 is only \$21,000,000 based on an unacceptable increase in the number of publications to be converted to microfiche; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge Congress to appropriate emergency supplemental funding for FY 1987 library programs at least at the FY 1986 level; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge Congress to appropriate adequate funds for FY 1988 to provide for:

continuation of current library programs including distribution of government publications in paper, microfiche, or dual format, as appropriate for user needs; and

the implementation of the pending pilot projects for the distribution of government information in electronic format to depository libraries, and to appropriate funds to provide for the issue of adequate and long-term preservation of government information in electronic form; and

development of programs utilizing new technologies, such as distribution of information on compact disk; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to appropriate committees of Congress and the Public Printer.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Chicago, Illinois
January 21, 1987
(Council Document #26.5)