



RESOLUTION ON GPO APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, A democratic society depends upon equal, ready, timely, and equitable access to government information regardless of format; and

WHEREAS, The Government Printing Office (GPO) Depository Library Program is the primary provider of no-fee public access to federal government information, serving constituents in every congressional district nationwide through the system of 1,400 congressionally designated depository libraries; and

WHEREAS, The Superintendent of Documents announced on November 18, 1992, that detailed analysis of expenditures for operating the Depository Library Program has determined that maintaining the existing minimum level of service would result in a shortfall of approximately 3.5 million dollars in fiscal year 1993; and

WHEREAS, The Government Printing Office has announced program changes in response to this fiscal shortfall which would violate the statutory mandate of the depository program in 44 USC 1902-1903, by denying selective depositories the right to receive information in the program which meets the needs of their particular diverse clientele; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association (ALA) urge Congress to approve a supplemental appropriation for fiscal year 1993 to make up the projected budget shortfall, thus avoiding GPO's announced drastic cuts; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That ALA urge Congress to appropriate the full amount requested by the Government Printing Office (Salaries and Expenses) to operate the depository library program for fiscal year 1994; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That ALA urge Congress to direct the Public Printer to consult with the depository library community now and in the future to generate ideas and determine the impact of changes to the program which will make it more cost effective without compromising the program or eroding its goals; 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
Denver, Colorado
January 26, 1993
(Council Document #27.1)