

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF
THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WHEREAS, the American Library Association "affirms that the preservation of library resources is essential in order to protect the public's right to the free flow of information as embodied in the First Amendment to the Constitution and the Library Bill of Rights" (ALA Preservation Policy, 1991); and

WHEREAS, millions of books and documents containing the information resources and cultural legacy of the United States and other countries are deteriorating; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Humanities Division of Preservation and Access has made a noble beginning in preserving this legacy, in collaboration with public libraries, historical societies and academic institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Preservation and Access still has an enormous amount of work remaining to ensure permanent survival of and continuing access to the cultural memory contained in various media; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Preservation and Access apolitically supports the preservation efforts of institutions that hold our cultural memory in trust for the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Preservation and Access engineers projects that preserve materials deemed necessary for the education of current and future American citizens, for example, the ongoing project to preserve all of the newspapers published in each state of the Union; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Preservation and Access provides leadership in developing a more expansive and inclusive national preservation policy in terms of both programs and funding; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Preservation and Access embodies government at its best, achieving excellence in grant-making, and serving as a model for other nations' preservation initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Preservation and Access promotes development of and adherence to standards for preservation which have subsequently been adopted worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Preservation and Access supports research and development in preservation technology and processes, which have had an international impact; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Preservation and Access disperses funds

wisely by encouraging cost-effective cooperation, and has forged a vital tripartite partnership of federal, institutional and private funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the work of Division of Preservation and Access is essential to provide continuing information access for citizens in a democracy;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the American Library Association strongly advocates reauthorization and continued funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities and that copies of this resolution be transmitted to appropriate Congressional committees and other government officials.

Endorsed by ALCTS Board 2/6/95

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REVIEWED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH
GUIDELINES

Resolutions Committee

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