

News Release: American Library Association

Public Information Office
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312 944-6780

From: Peggy Barber, Director
Public Information Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Resolution on Racism and Sexism Awareness

In a move for direct action against racism and sexism in the library profession and in library service, the Council of the American Library Association passed the following resolution during the ALA's Centennial Conference in Chicago, July 18 - 24, 1976.

WHEREAS, during the last 200 years the United States has failed to equalize the status of racial minorities and of women, and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association has professed belief in the principle of equality yet has failed to aggressively address the racism and sexism within its own professional province;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association actively commit its prestige and resources to a coordinated action program that will combat racism and sexism in the library profession and in library service by taking the following steps:

THE ALA WILL SURVEY LIBRARY SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH RACISM AND SEXISM AWARENESS TRAINING FORM A PART OF THE CURRICULA AND URGE THAT SUCH TRAINING BE ADDED TO THE CURRICULA IN EVERY LIBRARY SCHOOL WHERE IT IS NOT NOW INCLUDED.

THE LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION-PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION SECTION WILL DEVELOP A MODEL IN-SERVICE PROGRAM PROVIDING RACISM AND SEXISM AWARENESS TRAINING FOR LIBRARY PERSONNEL.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS, THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION, THE YOUNG ADULT SERVICES DIVISION, THE REFERENCE AND ADULT SERVICES DIVISION, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES WILL BE URGED TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO RAISE THE AWARENESS OF LIBRARY USERS TO THE PRESSING PROBLEM OF RACISM AND SEXISM.

THE RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION WILL DEVELOP A COORDINATED PLAN FOR THE REFORM OF CATALOGING PRACTICES THAT NOW PERPETUATE RACISM AND SEXISM.

add 1. Racism and Sexism Awareness

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the President and Executive Board assess the extent of implementation of these steps and report on progress by the 1977 Annual Conference.

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The Public Library Association
Public Information Office

RESOLUTION

Resolution on Racism and Sexism Awareness

As a result of the 1976 annual meeting and session on the library profession and the library service, the Council of the American Library Association passed the following resolution during the 1976 Annual Conference in Toronto, July 18 - 24, 1976.

WHEREAS, during the last 100 years the United States has failed to equate the status of racial minorities and of women, and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association has professed belief in the principle of equality yet has failed to aggressively address the racial and sex bias which has been a persistent problem;

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the American Library Association actively supports the objective and endeavor to a comprehensive action program that will combat racism and sexism in the library profession and in library service as follows:

THE ALA WILL STUDY CAREFULLY METHODS TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF WHICH RACISM AND SEXISM AFFECTS SERVICE AND TO FIND IF THE PROBLEMS ARE SUCH THAT THEY REQUIRE AN ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN EVERY LIBRARY WHERE THERE IS A LIBRARY SERVICE.

THE LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION, SERVICES, AND INFORMATION DIVISIONS WILL DEVELOP A RACIAL AND SEXISM PROGRAM INCLUDING RACIAL AND SEXISM AWARENESS TRAINING FOR LIBRARY PERSONNEL.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS, THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION, THE YOUTH ADULT SERVICES DIVISION, THE REFERENCE AND ADULT SERVICES DIVISION, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES WILL BE ASKED TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO RAISE THE AWARENESS OF LIBRARY USERS TO THE EXISTING PROBLEM OF RACISM AND SEXISM.

THE SERVICES AND TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION WILL DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE REMOVAL OF EXISTING PRACTICES THAT NOW PERPETRATE RACISM AND SEXISM.