

RESOLUTION ON A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, American libraries have long served as an indispensable element in both formal and lifelong education, and the importance of libraries in the educational process has long been recognized by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the importance of self-learning is growing, yet the units dealing with non-traditional learning in all its forms and aspects, such as libraries, are various and scattered throughout the Office of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources has had an up-and-down history within the current disparate elements in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; and

WHEREAS, the role of the U.S. Office of Education has assumed major importance in the federal government in providing maximum access to education for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, President Carter has called for a Department of Education,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Library Association support the establishment of a separate cabinet-level Department of Education in the U.S. government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there be an elevation of status and level of support of functions relating to libraries and non-traditional learning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the various approaches to learning and access to all types of library and information services, whether formal or non-traditional, be brought together with educational technology activities to constitute a separate office within the new Department of Education.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Washington, D.C., January 11, 1979