

RESOLUTION ON HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, academic libraries are national resources of information vital to education and scholarship which the government has aided through programs for support and enhancement and for which continued support is essential; and

WHEREAS, the role of library education and research is important in the development of new means to accommodate the needs of information users to the requirements of an electronic age, and in the advancement of the library profession; and

WHEREAS, Title II of the Higher Education Act is the principal instrument of federal support for academic libraries and library education and research; and

WHEREAS, Title II of the Higher Education Act is due for reauthorization in fiscal year 1985; and

WHEREAS, a preliminary statement of legislation proposes to disperse Title II library programs throughout a revised Higher Education Act; and

WHEREAS, such a move to disperse library related sections within the Act would cause confusion and endanger prospects for funding; and

WHEREAS, such a move would fragment administration of library programs at the federal level, thereby severely reducing their effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association recognizes that redrafting of HEA Title II would make it more responsive to users' needs and to the concerns of both the library profession and the Congress;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Library Association oppose the dispersal of Title II library provisions throughout the Higher Education Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Library Association support the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act with appropriate redrafting of Title II to meet the needs of academic library programs and library education and research; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Library Association direct its Washington Office, the ALA Legislation Committee, and the Association of College and Research Libraries' Legislation Committee to work closely with the staff of congressional education committees and other concerned higher education associations in the development of appropriate criteria for the allocation of federal funds to support academic library programs and library education and research.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Washington, D.C.
January 11, 1984
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