Resolution on Higher Education Act Title II Programs

WHEREAS, Education has been identified as a priority area for national improvement; and

WHEREAS, Academic and research libraries are among the principal agencies providing access to recorded knowledge; and

WHEREAS, Academic and research libraries have been able to acquire a decreasing percentage of needed books and serials as prices have far outpaced increases in book budgets; and

WHEREAS, An increasing percentage of relevant research, including government information and scientific and technical reports will be available only in machine-readable form; and

WHEREAS, Access to knowledge is increasingly important to the U. S. competitive position in the world economy; and

WHEREAS, Title II-A of the Higher Education Act bases grant eligibility on need criteria requested by Congress and developed by the library community; and

WHEREAS, Title II-A provides grants of sufficient size to aid collection development of needy institutions; and

WHEREAS, Title II-B of the Higher Education Act creates opportunities for individuals, many of them minorities, to receive training in librarianship and information technologies, and provides for needed research for the improvement of information services; and

WHEREAS, Title II-C permits research institutions to acquire unique collections for scholarly investigation, to preserve thousands of fragile and irreplaceable volumes, and to make them accessible to scholars nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Title II-D will permit many academic libraries to strengthen their support of instruction and research by acquiring appropriate technologies to facilitate access to information and promote resource sharing; and

WHEREAS, The Act calls for the appointment of a Department of Education official with expert knowledge of libraries and information technologies for implementation of Title II-D; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge Congress to appropriate the following sums for Higher Education Act, Title II library programs in FY 1988:

(over)
$10 million to support Title II-A programs; and

$5 million to continue the Title II-B Library Training and Research and Demonstration Programs with funding split two-thirds for training and one-third for research; and

$10 million to continue Title II-C programs as amended to aid research institutions; and

$5 million for Title II-D to provide competitive grants to eligible institutions and organizations to use information technologies to enhance library and information services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association recommend that the Department of Education appoint an official with expert knowledge of libraries and information technologies to implement Title II-D.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Chicago, Illinois
January 21, 1987
(Council Document #28.3)