

RESOLUTION TO FORM A COALITION ON GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

- WHEREAS, A primary tenet of a free society is complete and ready access to government information and publications, which are imperative for an informed society; and
- WHEREAS, Freedom of information for the American public is being directly and indirectly affected by fiscal pressures that have limited access to government information; and
- WHEREAS, The taxpayer is being limited in access to unclassified information developed with government funds; and
- WHEREAS, User communities are often not consulted concerning changes in the collection and dissemination of government information; and
- WHEREAS, The use of secrecy in relation to government information is currently being increased by Federal government agencies; and
- WHEREAS, Proposals have been made to curtail the freedom of expression of former and current Federal government employees; and
- WHEREAS, Proposed government regulations dealing with protection of "unclassified controlled nuclear information" have serious implications for libraries, scientists, and other groups; and
- WHEREAS, The press and various educational, scientific, consumer, and other citizen groups are becoming concerned and beginning to seek ways to reverse current trends limiting the production and access to government information; and
- WHEREAS, Recent government policies have had a serious effect on scholarly and scientific research, libraries, and the right of the public to know about their government; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association establish an Ad Hoc Committee to be appointed by the President of ALA to identify other concerned organizations and to form a coalition to investigate the problem and seek legislative and executive efforts to examine the collection, analysis, and dissemination of government information vital to the well being of the American public; and, be it
- FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Ad Hoc Committee responsible for forming the Coalition be composed of representatives from the ALA Legislation Committee, the Government Documents Round Table, the Intellectual Freedom Committee, and other interested ALA groups; and, be it
- FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Ad Hoc Committee present a progress report at the 1985 Annual Conference.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Washington, D. C.
January 9, 1985
(Council Document #28.7)