

Resolution on Electronic Dissemination of Government Information  
to Depository Libraries

- WHEREAS, A democratic society depends on ready and equal access to government information by and about its government; and
- WHEREAS, Government information in any format is government information; and
- WHEREAS, For over a century, the Federal Depository Library System has been the key element in the distribution of printed government information to academic, business and general users on a wide geographic basis; and
- WHEREAS, A number of government agencies are currently able to provide copies of floppy disks, CD-ROM products, and other forms of electronic media to the Government Printing Office for direct distribution to depository libraries; and
- WHEREAS, Many, though not all, depository libraries are now capable of accepting and utilizing appropriate electronic products for immediate use in disseminating government information to their users; and
- WHEREAS, Depository library should be involved in decisions regarding choice of appropriate formats for publication of government information; and
- WHEREAS, Immediate dissemination of such electronic products to meet public demand is urgently needed prior to the completion of the pending Office of Technology Assessment study of the long-range factors in disseminating electronic government information; and
- WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Printing's Ad Hoc Committee on Depository Library Access to Federal Automated Data Bases, the Association of Research Libraries, and the American Library Association have recently issued reports indicating the immediate need for implementing varied forms of electronic dissemination to depository libraries; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the Public Printer to prepare a comprehensive plan and request an appropriation for FY 1989 to immediately implement electronic dissemination of government information in various formats appropriate to users of depository libraries; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide an appropriation and allow for the reprogramming of current monies to permit the distribution to depository libraries of electronic government information currently available from government agencies; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the Public Printer of the United States, the Joint Committee on Printing, the House Appropriations Committee, and the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
San Antonio, Texas  
January 13, 1988  
(Council Document #35)