

# ALA American Library Association

## RESOLUTION ON FUNDING CENSUS DATA COLLECTION AND ACCESS

- WHEREAS,** Authoritative, reliable, consistent, historically comparable statistical data is an essential element of the information base which is vital to the economic well-being of the nation and the functioning of a democratic society; and
- WHEREAS,** Statistical data is used by the American public to further economic vitality, educational progress, and social improvements; and
- WHEREAS,** State and local governments rely on accurate and timely statistics from the Federal government for the identification of needs and measurement of program outcomes; and
- WHEREAS,** The private sector of the economy relies on accurate baseline statistics from the Federal government for efficient economic growth and the development of additional enhanced data; and
- WHEREAS,** The Bureau of the Census, through its decennial census, collects comprehensive data that describes the diverse characteristics of the American people and the housing units in which they live for each geographic entity which is the essential base for the nation's statistical system and an important tool for evaluating the nation's progress in economic, social, and educational arenas; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress is now considering the scope of content and the appropriate levels of funding for undertaking Census 2000; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association urge Congress to appropriate adequate funds to the Bureau of the Census for Census 2000 to provide for:
- 1) the collection of comparable detailed demographic, social, and economic data which is consistent in scope with data from earlier censuses and reflects the diverse nature of the American people, and
  - 2) census data in usable formats and public access at a basic level of service, and
  - 3) no-fee access for the public through Federal Depository Libraries for all census products and services.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
Washington, D.C.  
February 19, 1997  
(Council Document 20.2)