

ALA American Library Association

RESOLUTION ON NO-FEE ACCESS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

- WHEREAS,** The right of equal, ready, and equitable access for all people to information and ideas is essential to a democratic society; and
- WHEREAS,** In particular, access to legislative and regulatory government information is a public right that must not be restricted by format or ability to pay; and
- WHEREAS,** State and local government information is increasingly being made available through the Internet and other electronic means; and
- WHEREAS,** All states and many local governmental units have home pages on the Internet offering links to government information; and
- WHEREAS,** Some governmental units have begun to charge fees for electronic access to legislative and regulatory information as a means to generate revenue; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association affirm the necessity to provide no-fee, equitable, and ready electronic access to legislative and regulatory information disseminated by state and local governments; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association communicate this policy to state chapters and appropriate organizations.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Washington, D.C.
February 19, 1997
(Council Document 20.3)