

RESOLUTION

on

A NATIONAL DEPOSITORY AGENCY

WHEREAS, There is presently no agency responsible for the comprehensive collection and retention of, and provision of access to, federally published materials; and

WHEREAS, Federally published materials are now located in physically separated collections: the Library of Congress, the Superintendent of Documents library, the National Archives collection, and numerous individual departmental and agency libraries; and

WHEREAS, These collections differ greatly in completeness of coverage, kind and extent of bibliographic control and concept of service to the public; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has, since 1972, consistently advocated the creation of a national depository agency as a library of the last resort for federal publications; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for a national depository agency to serve as the capstone of the depository library program which will effect greater economy and efficiency while providing services such as bibliographic control, acquisition and distribution, reference service, interlibrary loan and photo-duplication for federal publications, and giving administrative guidance and oversight to regional and selective depository libraries; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association endorse the establishment of a national depository agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association encourage Congress to create a single agency which would provide a system of free, equal, effective and efficient access to federal government information; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association convey this position to the appropriate Congressional committees and encourage American Library Association chapters and members to support the necessary legislation.

ALA Legislation Committee

June 28, 1978