

RESOLUTION ON REVISION OF TITLE 44, PUBLIC PRINTING AND DOCUMENTS

WHEREAS, The federal government collects, compiles and produces information on every subject which pertains to life in our society, and

WHEREAS, Free access to government information is crucial to informed public decision making in a democratic society, and

WHEREAS, Libraries, including depository libraries, play a significant role in making this information available to the public, and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress is presently engaged in a comprehensive review of the U.S. Code, Title 44, "Public Printing and Documents," with the stated purpose of providing for improved administration of public printing services of public documents, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association reaffirm that:

1. There is a need for a national agency to provide a system of free, equal, effective and efficient distribution to depository libraries which permits full and free access to government publications in all formats including print, microform, machine-readable data files, audio and visual presentations or other means of information transfer
2. There is a need for comprehensive bibliographic control of government publications
3. There is need for a system of regional and selective depository libraries through which government information can be made available to the public
4. There is a need for a comprehensive current and retrospective collection of government-produced publications to serve depository libraries and the public as a source for reference and referral service, interlibrary loan, photoduplications and telefacsimile or other transmission systems
5. There is a need for a comprehensive centralized or coordinated sales program to offer on a cost recovery basis all government publications in whatever format, without pricing basic documents so high that non-profit libraries are unable to continue acquiring them for use by the public, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association convey these positions to the U.S. Congress and encourage American Library Association chapters and members to support legislation necessary to implement them.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Dallas, Texas, June 28, 1979