

# AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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## RESOLUTION CONCERNING OMB'S NOTICE OF INFORMATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Whereas, Many members of the library community and others had grave concerns with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) First Advance Notice of Further Policy Development on Dissemination of Information issued on January 4, 1989; and
- Whereas, OMB received 226 letters of comment on the January 1989 notice, 66 percent of which were from librarians, and staff of OMB personally met with many interested parties; and
- Whereas, OMB has now responded to the extensive public comment by publishing a Second Advance Notice of Further Policy Development on Dissemination of Information which withdraws the first advance notice and takes into consideration many of the principal objections to the initial notice; and
- Whereas, The Second Advance Notice (Federal Register, Vol. 54, No. 114, June 15, 1989, pp. 25554-59):

States that OMB's "fundamental philosophy is that government information is a public asset," and that "it is the obligation of the government to make such information readily available to the public on equal terms to all citizens;" and

Notes that "these principles apply whatever the form, printed, electronic, or other, in which the information has been collected or stored;" and

Affirms that "agencies should discharge their information responsibilities by taking full advantage of all information channels, foremost among which, are the federal depository libraries;" and

Agrees that "government information dissemination should be tailored to user needs, and that software development is often a legitimate federal activity;" and

States that "participation by the private sector supplements but does not replace the obligation of government;" and

Affirms that "In effect, agencies would be precluded from using information products as a profit center or budget mechanism;" and

Cautions that agencies are precluded from imposing "user charges that might attempt to recover costs of collecting and processing the information, and would preclude using other standards such as the market value of the information;" now, therefore, be it

- Resolved, That the American Library Association urge the Office of Management and Budget to provide continued opportunity for wide public involvement in the development of executive branch information policy; and be it further
- Resolved, That the American Library Association commend the Office of Management and Budget for its recognition of concerns, its reevaluation of a number of its positions and its assumption of a more open and thoughtful posture in this matter of greatest importance to the maintenance of an informed citizenry; and be it further
- Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Administrator of the OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, and Chairs of the appropriate House and Senate Congressional Committees.



ADOPTED BY THE  
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
June 28, 1989, in Dallas, Texas  
Transmitted by

  
Thomas J. Galvin, Secretary of Council