

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Financial  
Support of the Depository Library System to Council

As required in our charge of ALA Council Document #19, the ad hoc committee has investigated the possibility of proposing legislation to provide for the financial support of the depository library system and the possibility of proposing a revision of the Depository Act of 1962. The committee has found an urgent need for further study and action on both of these matters.

Therefore the committee will continue as the Ad Hoc Committee on the Depository Library System to take the following actions: (1) to review the role of libraries in the depository system, the role of the Government Printing Office in the depository system, and the need for financial support and review of depository legislation; and (2) to report findings to our respective ALA units and ALA Council at the Midwinter Meeting, 1974, for appropriate action.

Accordingly, on behalf of the committee, I move that Council adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED that Council express concern over the need for adequate financial support for the depository system and review of depository legislation through a letter from the ALA President to the Joint Committee on Printing of Congress requesting oversight hearings on these matters.

Endorsed by:

ALA Legislation Committee  
Interdivisional Committee on Public Documents  
Government Documents Round Table  
Law and Political Science Section of ACRL  
ALA Legislation Assembly

Adopted by Council on June 29, 1973

*ALA Washington*

- ✓ J. Lowrie
- ✓ R. Wedgeworth
- ✓ Interdiv. Committee on Public Documents, Chm.
- ✓ Govt. Documents Rd. Table - Bernadine Hoduski
- ✓ Law and Political Sc. Sect. of ACRL - Mrs. Nancy Rodgers, Chm.
- ✓ ALA Legislation Assembly, Chm.

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NOTE: Identical letter sent to all members of Joint Committee on Printing, namely:

- ✓ Rep. Wayne L. Hays (D-Ohio), Vice Chairman
- ✓ Rep. John Brademas, (D-Ind.)
- ✓ Rep. Wm. L. Dickinson, (R-Ala.)
- ✓ Sen. James B. Allen (D-Ala.)
- ✓ Sen. Hugh Scott, (R-Pa.)

July 25, 1973

Honorable Howard W. Cannon, Chairman  
 Joint Committee on Printing  
 Room 259, Russell Senate Office Building  
 U. S. Senate  
 Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Cannon:

During the annual meeting of the American Library Association at Las Vegas in June 1973, the following resolution was adopted by the ALA Council requesting that the Joint Committee hold oversight hearings on the depository library system:

RESOLVED, That Council express concern over the need for adequate financial support for the depository system and review of depository legislation through a letter from the ALA President to the Joint Committee on Printing of Congress requesting oversight hearings on this matter.

Over the years, the Association has maintained a cooperative working relationship with the Government Printing Office, and during our annual conference last month many of our members had opportunities to meet with the new Public Printer as well as several of his staff who were in attendance. Also, through the Advisory Council to the Public Printer for Depository Libraries, representatives of the Association advise and assist the Public Printer on an ongoing basis concerning the administration of the nationwide federal depository library program. As you know, too, we cooperated with the Joint Committee at the time the depository library laws were last revised in 1962.

The Association strongly supports the depository program, but deplures certain problems that increasingly limit its effectiveness. Accordingly, we are urging that the Joint Committee on Printing hold hearings to reassess the program and examine ways in which it can be improved. We would be happy to cooperate with the Committee in such a review of the depository system, and to furnish whatever information you might require. Eileen D. Cooke, Director of the ALA Washington Office, would be glad to talk with you further on this matter. (Her telephone number in Washington, D. C. is 202-547-4440.)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Association's Federal Legislative Policy, which states our support for the depository system (page 13). It also gives some general information about ALA and other aspects of our legislative policy which may be of interest to you.

Sincerely,

Jean Lowrie, President  
 American Library Association

JL/bp  
 Enclosure