RESOLUTION REGARDING DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

WHEREAS, The U. S. Government has, for more than a century, authorized and supported a program of Federal depository libraries in order to make governmentally-produced information freely accessible to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Depository libraries are widely dispersed throughout the country and are staffed with information specialists knowledgeable about the range and breadth of Federal government publications and services; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous libraries within Federal government agencies with similar capabilities; and

WHEREAS, Pending legislation now proposes to establish a permanent system of Federal information centers which would duplicate, at a very substantial cost, a relatively narrow segment of the present services of Federal depository libraries and Federal libraries;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Library Association recommends to the United States Congress:

1. that it designate the existing system of Federal depository libraries and Federal libraries as the primary sources of government information for the public in lieu of establishing a permanent information center program, providing continuing interim support for the existing centers until such time as the transition can be completed, and

2. that the existing program of depository and Federal libraries be enhanced by the provision of increased appropriations sufficient to provide staff and equipment necessary to implement the expanded program and to publicize the availability of government information at the depository and Federal libraries.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Chicago, June 29, 1978