

Resolution on Electronic Pilot Projects for Depository Libraries

- WHEREAS, The federal Depository Library Program was established by Congress to provide federal government information, at no cost to the public, through depository libraries; and
- WHEREAS, Federal government information is increasingly being disseminated through electronic means; and
- WHEREAS, Access to government information in electronic format is essential for an informed public; and
- WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Printing resolved on 9 April 1987, to urge the Government Printing Office to initiate pilot projects testing the dissemination of federal information in electronic format to depository libraries; and
- WHEREAS, The JCP had full knowledge of the pending Office of Technology Assessment study on federal information distribution at the time the resolution was passed; and
- WHEREAS, The information industry was well represented on the JCP's ad hoc Committee on Depository Library access to Federal automated data bases and participated fully in the work of the committee; and
- WHEREAS, At least sixteen agencies have volunteered to participate in the projects, recognizing the Depository Library Program as a vehicle for fulfilling the legal mandate to disseminate information to the public; and
- WHEREAS, Electronic distribution of government information to depository libraries may result in substantial long-range cost savings to the Government Printing Office; and
- WHEREAS, The House Appropriations Committee denied the transfer of monies from GPO's revolving fund to support the pilot projects in FY '88, pending results of an Office of Technology Assessment study of federal information dissemination; and
- WHEREAS, Continued delays in the implementation of the pilot projects seriously compromise public access to government information; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge Congress to authorize adequate funds for FY 1988 to implement pilot projects for dissemination of government information in electronic format through the Depository Library System.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Francisco, California
July 1, 1987
(Council Document #62)