AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
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RESOLUTION OPPOSING ROYALTY CHARGES FOR REDISSEMINATION OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

WHEREAS, Access to government information is a public right that should not be restricted by format or ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, Government information in all formats should be disseminated in a manner that promotes its usefulness to the American people; and

WHEREAS, The cost of collecting, organizing, storing, disseminating, and preserving government information is supported with public funds, and the American people should not be required to pay an additional fee for redissemination of the information; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has continuously discouraged the imposition of fees that are a barrier to equitable access to government information; and

WHEREAS, Title 44 U.S.C. 1911 requires that federal information be made available "for the free use of the general public" through the Federal Depository Library Program; and

WHEREAS, Congressional action that would require royalty charges for secondary use of government information violates accepted policies that government information should be in the public domain; and

WHEREAS, Such royalty charges also violate the principles of the Copyright Act and the Freedom of Information Act; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the United States Congress to refrain from enacting laws that require a government-imposed royalty charge for secondary distribution of government information products and services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association encourage members of the United States Congress to reaffirm their commitment to the equitable dissemination of government information in all formats to the American people.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Francisco, California
July 1, 1992
(Council Document #20.11)