

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF
GOVERNMENTAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- WHEREAS, Equal and ready access to unclassified government information and publications is a primary tenet of a free society; and
- WHEREAS, Ready access to scientific and technical information in a timely and systematic manner is of vital importance to the economic well-being and security of the nation; and
- WHEREAS, The National Technical Information Service, a self-supporting agency within the Department of Commerce, currently serves as the primary Federal government depository and source for unclassified scientific and technical information; and
- WHEREAS, The Department of Commerce announced a "Study of Alternatives for Privatizing the National Technical Information Service" in the April 28, 1986, Federal Register; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association has endorsed the principle that publications produced with public money remain free of copyright constraints; and
- WHEREAS, Many Federal agencies currently depend on NTIS to act as a repository and source for scientific and technical information; and
- WHEREAS, The possible privatization of the government's repository for scientific and technical information will have negative implications for the ready access of such information for users in business, academia, and government; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the Federal government to maintain as government services the following functions currently performed by NTIS:
- a) provision of a centralized source and permanent repository for a broad range of federal, international, state, local, and other unclassified scientific and technical reports;
 - b) provision of bibliographic access to this material through tools such as NTIS' Government Reports Announcements and Index;
 - c) dissemination of bibliographic information products of such a repository, i.e., catalogs, indexes, abstracts, and newsletters, through the Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program;
 - d) operation of a timely, "on-demand" sales program for this scientific and technical information at prices affordable for not-for-profit libraries, education institutions, students, small business entrepreneurs, and other similar groups; and, BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association forward a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of NTIS, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and appropriate committees of Congress.

Adopted by the
Council of the American Library Association
July 2, 1986, in New York, New York
(Council Document #51.2)