

ALA American Library Association

RESOLUTION ON THE PRINCIPLES FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

- WHEREAS,** The public's right of access to government information is a cornerstone of our democratic society; and
- WHEREAS,** Open, uninhibited, and no-fee access to government information ensures that the public has the opportunity to monitor and participate in the full range of government activities; and
- WHEREAS,** The government should encourage public participation and use of government information through proactive dissemination efforts that ensure ready, timely, and equitable public access; and
- WHEREAS,** Since government information is used in many ways that affect the health and livelihood of the American public, any loss or corruption of that data poses a serious and real threat to the common good; and
- WHEREAS,** Permanent public access to government information must be maintained to ensure the present and future accountability of the government, regardless of changing times or technologies; and
- WHEREAS,** The federal government is precluded from holding copyright protection or imposing copyright-like restrictions on its published and/or unpublished works; and
- WHEREAS,** The government Printing Office includes the "*Principles for Federal Government Information*" in its report to Congress, *Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program*; and
- WHEREAS,** These principles are the foundation of GPO's proposed transition; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association endorse and adopt the "*Principles for Federal Government Information*" as articulated by the Government Printing Office in its [*Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program*]:
- The public has the right to access government information;
 - The government has an obligation to disseminate and provide broad public access to its information;
 - The government has an obligation to guarantee the authenticity and integrity of its information;
 - Government information created or compiled by government employees or at government expense should remain in the public domain.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
New York City, New York
July 10, 1996
(Council Document 20.8)