RESOLUTION ON THE "REINVENTING GOVERNMENT" AND ITS IMPACT ON THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY LIBRARIES: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN AN INFORMATION AGE

WHEREAS, The United States now faces an international environment that has undergone its most radical change in fifty years; and

WHEREAS, The Clinton Administration and the Congress are exploring various options to reshape, modernize and consolidate programs and services provided by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has worked closely in the founding of the worldwide system of United States Information Service libraries beginning with the founding of the Benjamin Franklin Library in Mexico City in 1942, and;

WHEREAS, Over the past fifty years these libraries have provided access to U.S. publications and information about the United States, by furthering U.S. cultural and economic interests, expanding open communication and exchange of ideas and providing a model for library service that strengthens and reinforces the traditions of a democratic society and the ideal of an informed citizenry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association assert the fundamental importance and mission of the United States Information Agency libraries; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge that in the effort to "reinvent government" the USIA strengthen its existing libraries and information centers abroad to increase access to the rich diversity of U.S. publications and information resources in print and electronic formats to audiences around the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the USIA to further the international flow of information by providing Internet access at its sites to facilitate world access to information from the U.S. and to serve the needs of American citizens seeking to inform themselves about the world.

Sponsor of the Resolution: ALA International Relations Committee
Endorsed by: International Relations Round Table

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