

ALA



FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY

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LEGISLATIVE
POLICY

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PREFACE

Founded in 1876, the American Library Association is the oldest and largest national library association in the world. It is the only nongovernmental organization at the national level representing all types of library and information services. Nearly 44,000 member libraries, librarians and information specialists, library trustees, educators, and communicators share a common mission of promoting and improving library service and libraries.

Priorities of the Association are recognized and officially established to be the following:

- Access to Information
- Legislation/Funding
- Intellectual Freedom
- Public Awareness
- Personnel Resources
- Library Services, Development, Technology

The Association works closely with a broad spectrum of organizations concerned with education, research, cultural development, literacy, recreation, and public service. It maintains a close working relationship with more than seventy other library related associations in the United States, Canada, and other countries, and participates with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

For those concerned with formulating and implementing Federal legislation, the Association is a comprehensive source of information about libraries. The Association maintains an office in Washington, D.C., in addition to its headquarters in Chicago, to facilitate library cooperation at all levels of government and to assist in interpreting library needs to Congress, to Federal and state executive agencies, and to the people of the United States.

The Association's policies on Federal Legislation are based on its goal of ensuring excellence in the nation's library and information services. Particular areas of Federal legislative concern and action are described in this publication.

I THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

A democratic society depends on the Federal government ensuring the right of access for all its citizens to a comprehensive range of knowledge and a diversity of communications media. Through declaration of policy, by legislation, regulation, and the appropriation of financial support, the Executive Branch and the Congress of the United States have responded to citizen requests for a Federal role in support of libraries as vital institutions serving the needs and well-being of individuals and the nation. Thus, while most libraries are local institutions, under local control, the Federal government plays an essential role in helping ensure access to resources and services to all.

Open government is vital to a democracy. Federal policymakers must continue to recognize the unique role of libraries, their existing delivery systems, and inherent community base in the dissemination of information to the public. Recognizing the constraints of national security, privacy, efficient decision-making, and costs, the Federal government must continue to assume special responsibility to ensure that information produced or funded by the government is accessible to the people through the nation's libraries.

The Federal government also must provide leadership in the development and application of new technologies and services. Federal action can stimulate local pilot programs for innovative services designed for specific user groups, programs which require specialized materials, and education programs for library personnel.

Emerging technology is altering the profile of library service. The Federal government has initiated and facilitated cooperation, encouraged resource sharing among all types of libraries, and established standards and practices for development of quality library networks that extend beyond state and national boundaries.

The Department of Education through its mandate to assist librarians across the country raises standards of service and develops new programs to benefit library users. The Department not only administers effective grant programs to public libraries, elementary and secondary school libraries, academic and research libraries, but also provides leadership, technical assistance, and dissemination of information. These functions must continue.

The Federal government also pays a critical role in the compilation and timely dissemination of statistical information about libraries which is essential to long-range planning and library development.

In an age of international communication and interchange of re-

sources, the Federal government is pivotal in the development of libraries as institutions that transcend national boundaries. International protocols, participation in international organizations, transnational data flow and monetary policies are inherently within the domain of the Federal government.

In all, this Federal role complements, without supplanting, the basic responsibilities of state and local governments and institutions to assure quality library and information service.

2 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

PUBLIC ACCESS TO FEDERAL INFORMATION

The Association supports freedom of public access to information generated by the Federal government, a right recognized in the Freedom of Information Act of 1966, the Printing Act of 1895, the Depository Library Act of 1962, the Privacy Act of 1974, the Government In The Sunshine Act of 1976, and other statutes. It urges strict enforcement of the provisions of these acts. Security classification should be limited to significant areas of national security. The statutes and regulations governing security classification should promote open government.

Under Federal law, selected libraries across the nation are designated as depository libraries to receive Federal documents and make them accessible to the public. The Association supports improvement of the depository system and improved means of access to the designated depository collections.

Any review of policies relating to public access to Federal information should recognize these requirements:

- that all unclassified government information of public interest or educational value be collected and distributed to depository libraries for free public access;
- that comprehensive bibliographic control of all government publications be provided through nationally recognized databases and library networks;
- that all government publications and government produced information be disseminated in whatever format is most appropriate for the information, most cost effective, and most useful for government agencies, libraries, and the general public;
- that depository libraries be recognized and funded to operate as federal information centers for public access.

The Association endorses a comprehensive and coordinated sales program for government information which offers on a cost-recovery basis all government publications in whatever format, without pricing basic documents beyond the reach of nonprofit libraries and information centers responsible for providing public access to information.

Further, the Association affirms the need for a national program to provide, within the government, a comprehensive current and retrospective collection of Federal government publications and government-produced information for public access as a national collection which could serve as a library of the last resort. This program should also include information dissemination services such as collection and distribution of documents to depository libraries and information centers, bibliographic control, reference service, interlibrary loan, and photoduplication, as well as administrative guidance and oversight to depository libraries.

EQUAL ACCESS TO LIBRARY SERVICE

High among the Association's priorities is support of Federal legislation that would help to redress the national imbalance in educational and informational opportunities. The Association is committed to the provision of access to libraries for those persons who are disadvantaged by reason of cultural, educational, or economic factors or lack of mobility. Special library services and materials are needed by the aged, the disabled, those with learning difficulties, and those with limited skills in English in order that they may claim their full share of our national life.

Access to library resources and services demands that individuals master the basic literacy skills to obtain information they want and to use information for their own and other's needs. Basic literacy skills are essential for self-fulfillment and fulfillment of each individual's role as a family and community member, as a citizen, jobholder, producer, and consumer. Library services and resources play a significant role in assuring that each individual acquire basic literacy skills. The Association urges that the Federal government continue and expand its leadership role and financial incentives to ensure that libraries pursue aggressive and effective programs to improve the rate of literacy.

Further, the Association endorses the concept that literacy is not a program to be implemented by education agencies alone but by a

coalition of agencies, including libraries, adult education agencies, labor, manpower training and others, working in a coordinated effort.

Substantial progress has been made in developing and extending specialized library services to the blind and to persons with other physical disabilities that prevent them from using conventional library materials. The Association encourages Federal financial aid for programs that will strengthen and expand library service not only to these persons but to those experiencing any physical barriers to information. The Association supports establishment of a national library service for the deaf and hearing-impaired with appropriate additional funding in an agency which is responsive to the needs of this constituency.

3 INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Believing that an informed citizenry is the very foundation of democracy, and that the Constitution guarantees open communication of ideas and information in every form through all media, the Association supports the right of libraries and information centers to disseminate materials on all topics of concern, no matter how controversial.

The Association rejects discrimination in library service and upholds the right of all persons to have access to library services, regardless of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, disability, economic condition, individual life-style, or political or social views.

The Association supports the freedom of the press and the right of the news media to inform the American public without fear of governmental reprisal or control. The Association supports as equally basic to democracy the right of authors, publishers and media producers to disseminate their works without imposition of a governmental imprimatur.

Believing that the world of ideas and information cannot be provincialized without destroying its integrity, the Association maintains that the American public has a right to access to the works and views of foreign authors, artists, and scholars. The Association further contends that free expression should not be suppressed through Federal regulation of travel abroad and the importation and exportation of information materials should not be used to suppress free expression.

The Association opposes restrictions on access to or dissemination of unclassified Federal government information. The Associa-

tion also opposes requirements forcing present or prior Federal employees to submit any writings to official review before publication.

4 FEDERAL POLICIES

POSTAL RATES AND QUALITY OF POSTAL SERVICE

The Association is concerned with postal rates for all classes of mail. Libraries and information centers use first class mail; some hold second class mailing permits. Second class mail rates are of concern to libraries and information centers because they affect the subscription rates of the numerous periodical publications that libraries must have for use of their patrons.

Libraries and information centers are also particularly concerned with two subclasses of fourth class mail: first, the library rate, used by publishers and distributors to mail materials to libraries and by libraries to provide vital interlibrary loan and books-by-mail services to persons in remote areas and to those who are disabled, homebound, or institutionalized; and second, the book rate, which covers books and other types of educational and cultural materials. Postal costs are passed on directly to libraries by publishers and other producers and suppliers of library materials.

The Association supports the revenue forgone and public service subsidies to the U.S. Postal Service. It supports the current law, which authorizes preferential library rates, and postal rates that reflect the educational and cultural value of books and materials. The Association supports free mailing privileges for the loan and return of braille and talking books and associated equipment for the blind and physically disabled. Elimination of this privilege would create a most serious financial barrier to recipients who desperately need these resources and to the institutions that lend them.

The Association urges that the 1976 Postal Amendments (PL 94-421) be interpreted by the U.S. Postal Service to permit libraries to mail materials to publishers and distributors at the same fourth class library rate that publishers and distributors may now use to mail materials to libraries.

TAXATION

The Association believes it is in the public interest that libraries not be unjustly burdened by tax laws and their interpretation. Tax

policy should include recognition of the principle of special treatment and exemptions for libraries already recognized in Federal, state, and local tax laws. In light of the fact that the primary support of most libraries is derived from local levels of government, the Association endorses the principle that state and local taxes should be deductible from personal Federal income taxes.

The Association urges tax reform legislation that will encourage monetary contributions and gifts of artistic, literary, personal, and professional works to libraries to provide program support and valuable primary source material for research and scholarship.

Further, the Association urges passage of legislation which, recognizing the complex inventory requirements of the publishing and book distribution industry, eliminates the leveling of unfair taxes on that industry. Such taxes may reduce access to publications or lead to additional cost for educational institutions and libraries.

COPYRIGHT

The Association is concerned that the rights of creators of copyrighted works be advanced equally with the rights of the public to have access to those works. Accordingly, it supports the intended statutory balancing of rights in the Copyright Act of 1976, and it urges that guidelines, procedures, and interpretations relating to this act interpose a minimum of obstacles to the free and open distribution of ideas by all methods including print, microforms, audio, video, and electronic means.

The Association believes that the review at five-year intervals by the Register of Copyrights (mandated by Subsection 108(i) of the Copyright law) should be construed broadly to consider all methods of communicating, reproducing, and disseminating the work, and should include as a primary concern the impact of the law on users of all sizes and types of libraries and information centers. Any data collection efforts should include libraries, users, and copyright proprietors.

The Association supports a general prohibition against copyright for all works of the U.S. Government.

PRESERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

The Federal role in the preservation of library materials extends not only to preserving collections in Federal institutions, including

the Library of Congress and the National Archives, but also to assistance in the preservation of other materials of historical and national significance, and to support for research and demonstration projects. The Association endorses a Federal role in the preservation of library materials to ensure that scarce resources are employed to the most productive use, that duplication of effort is avoided, that the latest scientific and technological advances are utilized, and that agencies, institutions, and the public are made aware of this critical problem.

5 FEDERAL PROGRAMS

FEDERAL LIBRARIES: A NATIONAL RESOURCE

Library of Congress. The Library of Congress is the foundation upon which any program of national library service must be based. It performs extensive national library functions that are vital to the library and research communities of the nation. The Association recommends that the Library of Congress be designated by the Congress as the National Library.

The Association supports the improvement and extension of the present services of the Library of Congress and urges Congress to provide adequate funding for expanded programs. The Association recommends that the Library of Congress expand its national library programs including the following: increased emphasis on research, reference, and bibliographic activities; increased acquisition and cataloging of foreign materials; development of the library's role as a national resource center for government publications, including Federal, foreign government, and international publications, to better serve both Congress and the nation; development and support of new information technologies; continuation of services which fulfill bibliographic needs of its nonresearch library constituents; expanded preservation program; increased microfilming of library materials threatened with deterioration; more research programs in innovative library techniques and services and more effective application of technology to meet the needs of the blind and physically disabled.

Other Federal Libraries. The National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine are also recognized as having national responsibility for collecting, organizing, and servicing research materials in their special fields. Libraries and information centers in other Federal agencies have significant research collec-

tions and a considerable measure of national responsibility beyond the agencies they serve and should receive financial and other support commensurate with these responsibilities. The specialized fields of these Federal libraries and information centers complement the Library of Congress and should form part of a nationwide library network.

The contracting out or privatization of entire Federal libraries and information centers jeopardizes the integrity of their resources and the quality of their services. The nature of these libraries and information centers; their close association with the policy making structures of their parent organization; their function as an institutional memory of Federal agency goals, missions and programs; and their potential role in a nationwide information network demonstrate clearly why they are not commercial activities. The American Library Association considers the U.S. Office of Management and Budget classification of Federal libraries as commercial activities as inaccurate and inappropriate and urges that library operations be removed from OMB's list of commercial activities.

Federal agencies should accept the mission of supporting national library service programs through the designation of their department libraries as national library resources. The Association supports the use of Federal libraries as reference and research centers for providing scientific and technical information to business, industry, and government.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND REFERENCE SERVICES

Distribution of bibliographic services and data of the Library of Congress, National Technical Information Service (NTIS) and other Federal libraries and agencies should be improved and expanded. Bibliographies and information resources produced by the Federal government either directly or by contract should be given wide public distribution through libraries and information centers without the expense of commercial handling.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

The United States National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) provides a national forum and serves as a catalyst for open discussion of issues relevant to library and information service, conducts research on critical issues, and provides unbiased information and advice to the President and the Congress.

The Association recognizes the critical need for the Commission and supports its program. The Association urges that the Commission be funded consistently at a level sufficient to pursue vigorously a national program for strengthening of library and information services, to support implementation of the recommendations of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, and to initiate further study and action on critical issues facing the library and information community.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The U.S. Department of Education is the primary Federal agency for the promotion of quality educational services and facilities and the equalization of educational opportunities essential to our national welfare. The Association supports continuation of the Department of Education at the cabinet level. A program for the support and improvement of library services should be coordinated by a strong unit at the highest administrative level within the Department.

The Department of Education should continue to improve its advisory and technical assistance in upgrading library education and the resources, services, and facilities of school, college, university, research, state, special and public libraries.

The Association supports adequate funding and administrative recognition to ensure comprehensive, accurate, and timely collection and dissemination of statistical data relevant to libraries by the Center for Education Statistics. The data collection and dissemination is necessary to provide the information on which state and local officials base their decisions. It must be expanded and strengthened to enable libraries to make the maximum possible contribution to the information infrastructure of the nation.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

The National Archives and Records Administration performs essential functions relating to the preservation, use, and disposition of the records of the U.S. Government. Its clientele includes Federal agencies, libraries of all types, scholars, genealogists, and the general public. To adequately fulfill its function it is essential that it continue as an independent government agency. Federal support of the National Archives should be sufficient to enable it to meet its obligations to Federal agencies, to pursue an active preservation pro-

gram, and to provide research and reference service to the public directly and through loan of materials to libraries for their users. The Association also supports the continuation and funding to the grant programs of the National Historical Publications and Records Administration, located within the National Archives.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

The Association supports adequate Federal funding for the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities. The programs, activities, and research projects which the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities sponsor to make the arts more widely available and to relate a better understanding of the humanities to national concerns have implications for all types of libraries and expand upon the public's ability to draw upon existing resources. Further, the Challenge Grant programs of the endowments, which have begun to make an impact upon cultural institutions, deserve renewal if the private sector is to be stimulated to participate in the arts and humanities.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES

State library agencies are central to the development of effective library services in a state. They are responsible for statewide library planning, for effective administration and use of state and Federal funds, and for development of coordinated library services for the state's residents. Their mission is to create and support programs which strengthen the resources and services of all libraries in the state, to provide for service to state government, institutions and special groups, and to exert leadership in the development of resource sharing and networking. The Association endorses Federal legislation to provide funds for programs that address service priorities, material resources, and staff for state library agencies to enable them to discharge these responsibilities effectively.

FEDERAL AID TO LIBRARIES, SYSTEMS, EDUCATION AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS

The Association endorses comprehensive Federal aid to public education to enhance the capacity of the states and their subdivisions

to establish and maintain adequate educational opportunities. The success of Federal programs of categorical aid to education demonstrates the contribution the Federal government can make to promoting broadened educational opportunities for all. Libraries across the nation must continue to benefit from Federal grants specifically directed to their needs as well as the block grant programs.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS

School library media programs are an integral part of the school, supporting every aspect of the curriculum and instructional program. Instruction in the use of libraries is a basis for life-long learning. Such instruction should begin during childhood years and continue as a goal of the educational process in order to prepare individuals with the independent information retrieval skills essential to sustained professional and personal growth. Effective teaching and learning depend upon access to library resources and instruction designed cooperatively by school library media specialists and teachers to meet the needs of students of differing abilities and backgrounds.

The Association endorses adequate funds for professionally trained school library media personnel and support staff in individual schools, in school systems, and at the state level, adequate collections of library books and materials, adequate technological means for providing access to information, and facilities that will stimulate and strengthen school library media services.

TECHNICAL, PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

As the demand for technically trained workers in business, industry, science, and government accelerates, growing numbers of persons seek new vocations and training. Economic fluctuations, automation, and the pressure for improved productivity in American industry further exacerbate the situation. These factors have led to expanded needs at technical and professional educational institutions, vocational technical institutes, community colleges, four-year colleges and graduate schools. The Association endorses Federal legislation for career and retraining education that includes support for libraries.

COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES

College and research libraries acquire, preserve, and disseminate the products of worldwide scholarship and utilize those materials in support of the educational and scholarly research programs of the institutions they serve. By participating in resource sharing programs, they make those materials available to students, scholars, and citizens throughout the nation. Yet the demands for books and materials are rising faster than college and university budgets. Many older, yet important, library books and materials are deteriorating faster than funds can be found to preserve them. Cooperative ventures, improved bibliographic control, and the application of new technologies can aid in meeting these economic challenges, but the cost of such solutions is often substantial.

The Higher Education Act has significantly helped college and research libraries address such issues in recent years. Through various programs and tax exemptions, funds have been provided for library books and materials, buildings, staff, research, training, resource sharing, and preservation.

The Association supports Federal programs which help college and research libraries effectively fulfill their roles in supporting the educational, research, and economic development programs to meet national needs.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Public libraries, essential components of the total education structure, are of economic, educational, cultural and social benefit to citizens of all ages and occupations in every community. Their services and resources must be strengthened and updated constantly to meet the growing needs of a diverse population to enable people to function more effectively in the contemporary world.

Although the public library is a local institution, adequate public library services are a national concern, regardless of location or local taxing capability. The Association supports Federal assistance to the states to assure equal opportunity of access to library service for all. Federal programs that recognize local resources and local effort are needed to complement state and local efforts to develop and maintain adequate public library services throughout the country.

Federal assistance can strengthen basic library resources, both materials and staff. It can also enable libraries to extend and improve services to individuals and groups whose access to library and

information resources is limited to nonexistent. As part of intergovernmental funding, Federal assistance is critically needed to support state efforts to develop interlibrary cooperatives and networks linking all kinds of libraries, enabling them to coordinate and share their resources. The Association endorses Federal funding which reinforces state and local efforts to bolster urban public libraries that directly serve many people who neither live nor pay taxes in the central cities. Shared Federal funding is needed to assist the many libraries and information centers in suburban and rural areas whose delivery of public library services has been curtailed or is undeveloped because of inflation, high energy costs, and limited population bases.

The Association also supports the inclusion of public libraries in Federal programs designed to create or strengthen community services and to address social and educational needs, including expansion of the library's role as a community information center to serve the special information requirements of citizens with unique needs and problems.

SERVICE TO PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS

The Association advocates the provision of library services, including access to information, for residents and staff of mental and general hospitals, correctional institutions, schools for the disabled and other institutions. Adequate financial support for these services should be provided through a Federal-state-local partnership.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR LIBRARY FACILITIES

Library service is dependent on efficient, economical, and inviting library structures, furniture, and equipment. The Federal government should recognize its responsibility to all libraries for support of these requirements through funding of library construction, including funding for the Higher Education Act, the Library Services and Construction Act, and other programs. The Association endorses in particular construction programs that emphasize energy conservation, retrofitting for improved technology, and improved access for the disabled.

The Association favors the inclusion of library buildings in legislation providing for programs of community development and public employment.

The Association also supports the policy of permitting libraries, like other educational institutions, to receive both real and personal surplus property.

6 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

The creation, storage, and dissemination of information is becoming increasingly dependent upon the use of new technologies such as on-line computer networks, laser technologies, telecommunications technologies and media broadcast technologies. Since the computer is a vital vehicle for information access, it is important that all types of libraries provide access to information in electronic formats as well as professional assistance in using these systems. Libraries need to develop equitable policies that will preserve a broad freedom and equality of access to electronic data bases.

NATIONAL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION NETWORKS

Individual libraries cannot independently meet the information needs of all users. Varying population levels, uneven distribution of library resources, increased educational needs for citizens of all ages, an expanding volume of information, and the rapid growth of electronic data bases and electronic publications necessitate that libraries and information centers work cooperatively to develop integrated networks. Facilitating such networking activities requires Federal funding. The effectiveness of nationwide library networking depends upon the participation of member libraries, particularly the nationally recognized research libraries and information centers. The Association supports adequate Federal assistance to ensure that school, academic, public, and special libraries can participate in such networks.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND COPYRIGHT PROTECTION

Electronically stored and delivered information requires an infrastructure comparable to that existing for printed materials. It requires agreement on technical standards for storage and transmission in accepted formats, standards for compatibility in equipment design, and standards for the bibliographic description of electronic publications. Rights of authorship must be protected,

even though the storage and dissemination of the content is electronic. The Association supports a Federal role in the establishment of technical and bibliographic standards and the extension of copyright protection to electronic information and systems.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCAST MEDIA

The Association supports legislation that will ensure the availability of communications technology at preferential rates for dissemination of educational and library information. The Association urges that libraries and library networks be recognized as prime users of satellite, microwave, cable communications, and other means of information transmission which allow the linking of libraries and users. Congress should make certain that divestiture and deregulation of the telecommunications industry does not result in the imposition of prohibitively high telecommunications tariffs on libraries or the electronic networks that support and service them. The Association opposes deregulation of the broadcast media and the repeal of the Fairness Doctrine, including the "equal time" provision.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The ability to use electronic information systems is becoming a crucial part of one's ability to function in a democratic society. The Association stresses the importance of information technology education as a fundamental aspect of overall national literacy goals.

7 PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

EDUCATION OF LIBRARIANS AND INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

Adequate funding is imperative to improve the quality of preservice, post-masters, and continuing library education for librarians, information specialists, and supportive staff through scholarships, fellowships, and training institutes. The Association supports Federal grants for institutional support of quality library education programs, for research and experimentation, for continuing education for the current workforce and of library education faculty, and for fellowships to recruit into the profession candidates qualified to meet tomorrow's information needs.

Federal support is needed for research in library and information science if libraries and information centers are to deal with increased demands for information from individual citizens as well as from industry, government, and educational agencies. Numerous questions about how libraries and information centers can best provide information must be answered through systematic research especially when those questions relate to applications of new technologies and information delivery systems.

PERSONNEL POLICIES AND EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

The Association supports strong, flexible, humane, and equitable library personnel programs. The Association supports a Federal civil service system, which not only ensures quality library service in Federal libraries and information centers, but which through its influence, raises standards for libraries and information centers and salaries for library personnel throughout the nation. The Association opposes changes in the Federal civil service structure, such as contracting out entire Federal libraries to private contractors and revisions of classification and pay systems, which threaten the continuation of librarians as professionals in the Federal government.

The Association is committed to the selection, promotion and compensation of library personnel based upon equity, competency and affirmative action programs. The Association affirms that all persons in the library profession should be selected for their knowledge, skills and abilities, without discrimination in regard to race, color, age, religion, sex, disability, life-style, or national origin. The Association supports the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the elimination of discrimination and urges that it be given broad powers and adequate resources.

The Association supports the concept of comparable pay for comparable work and therefore supports legal and legislative efforts to achieve wages and benefits for library workers commensurate with wages and benefits in other occupations with similar qualifications, training, and responsibilities.

The Association supports the rights of library personnel to engage in collective bargaining on the same basis as their organization counterparts, such as other governmental or municipal employees and teaching faculty.

Utilization of information is basic to virtually every aspect of daily living in a democratic society, whether in formal pursuit of educational goals or in independent judgment and decision-making. In this post-industrial, increasingly complex society the need for information daily becomes greater. The Association recognizes that it is essential that libraries of all types accept the responsibility of providing people with opportunities to understand the organization of and methods of access to information, and it endorses Federal funding and support of programs that include instruction in the use of libraries as one of the primary goals of service.

8 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The Association has endorsed Congressional legislation calling for the sponsorship of a second White House Conference. Libraries are a national resource and Association members share a concern for providing the public with maximum access to this resource. In 1979 the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS), through the participation of over 100,000 citizens in state, territorial, and national assemblies, provided the impetus and planning to expand and improve the public's access to and awareness of libraries. Recommendations of the White House Conference provided a policy framework within which the legislative agenda for the last decade was formulated. The Association continues to work with the WHCLIS Task Force on implementing the White House Conference legislative recommendations consistent with this policy.

9 EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The Association supports the ratification of an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

10 INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Libraries and information services transcend national boundaries. The Association shall continue its work with international library

groups such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, other national library associations, and individual agencies and institutions abroad assisting in the improvement of library service and librarianship. The Association supports Federal international policy and regulations that promote transborder data flow among libraries and librarians and access by American libraries to international resources.

UNITED NATIONS

The Association supports participation by the United States in those programs of the United Nations and its specialized agencies which, in fulfillment of the objective of the United Nations Charter, relate significantly and constructively to books, reading, libraries or information centers. The Association encourages promptness both in publication of United Nations documents and in their distribution to libraries.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

The Association supports the principles of UNESCO as stated in its constitution. The book, library, archival and General Information programs conducted by UNESCO have brought many positive benefits to both the U.S. and to the international library and information communities.

The Association regrets the decision of the United States to withdraw from membership in UNESCO and will support and encourage the resumption of active United States participation at the earliest possible date. In the interim, the Association urges the government to fund alternative mechanisms to pursue the goals of UNESCO and its General Information Program in the areas of free flow of publications and information across national boundaries and enhanced access to international resources for American libraries.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Association has long been active in programs for the improvement of library and bibliographic services in Latin America and it collaborates with the Library Development Program of the Organi-

zation of American States and favors strengthening the programs to improve communication among the people of the Western Hemisphere.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF PERSONS

The Association supports the continuation of the International Exchange of Persons Program to give foreign visitors the opportunity to observe libraries in this country and to understand their contribution to American life. The exchange of librarians between this and other countries should be encouraged with government funding to libraries and library schools for observation, study, and in-service training.

INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF PUBLICATIONS

The Association supports the position that information in whatever form be permitted to cross borders freely. The interchange of recorded information in all its forms between the United States and other countries is essential for international understanding. Federal support should be given for the acquisition in American libraries and information centers of foreign books and library materials, translations, and international information. Wide distribution of American publications abroad, subsidized with Federal funds that would include expense of translations, should be given high priority.

The Association urges that improved exchange agreements for the flow of publications of all kinds, including official unclassified government documents and other recorded information, between American libraries and those abroad be closely correlated with the projects of the Government Printing Office, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, other research libraries, and the Universal Serials and Book Exchange, Inc. Efforts to improve transborder data flow should be encouraged and supported.

FLORENCE AGREEMENT

The Association favors implementation by the United States of the Nairobi Protocol liberalizing the Florence Agreement by removing tariff duties on additional educational, scientific, and cultural

materials, such as audio, visual, and microform materials. The Nairobi Protocol will benefit United States libraries, information centers and educational centers.

UNITED STATES LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS ABROAD

The Association encourages the Federal government to provide adequate support for the establishment and maintenance of professionally staffed American libraries abroad. These libraries would provide reliable information about the United States from diverse points of view, and demonstrate the way in which the American library model can nourish the spirit of free inquiry.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT

The Association encourages the establishment of reciprocal copyright relationships with other countries through appropriate international arrangements such as the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

INTERNATIONAL POSTAL POLICY

The United States international postal rates on educational and cultural materials should continue to be based on the optional provision in the Universal Postal Convention that permits reduced rates. The Association endorses proposals made by UNESCO for the modification of the Universal Postal Convention to encourage wider and easier international distribution of educational and cultural materials.

ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Association encourages the continuation of Federally funded programs to help developing countries achieve their educational goals. These programs should include assistance in the formation and improvement of libraries and information services, the development of local publishing capabilities, and the bibliographic organization of the countries publications.

11 EXISTING FEDERAL LAWS AFFECTING LIBRARIANS, LIBRARIES AND THEIR USERS

Adult Education Act	P.L. 91-230 as amended
Age Discrimination in Employment Act	P.L. 95-256 as amended
Agricultural Trade Development Assistance Act of 1954 (Title VII)	P.L. 83-480 as amended
Asbestos School Hazard Detection Act	P.L. 96-270
Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act	P.L. 99-177
Beirut Agreement - implementing legislation (Joint Resolution to give effect to the Agreement for Facilitating the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural Character, approved at Beirut in 1948)	P.L. 89-634
Civil Rights Act of 1964	P.L. 88-352 as amended
Civil Service Reform Act of 1978	P.L. 95-454 as amended
Communications Act of 1934	Ch. 652, 48 Stat. (18 & 47 USC)
Computer Fraud and Abuse Act	P.L. 98-473 as amended
Copyright Law (USC Title 17)	P.L. 94-553 as amended
Department of Education Organization Act	P.L. 96-88 as amended
Depository Library Act	P.L. 87-579 as amended
Education Consolidation and Improvement Act	P.L. 97-35 as amended
Education for Economic Security Act	P.L. 98-377 as amended
Education of the Handicapped Act	P.L. 91-230 as amended
Electronic Communications Privacy Act	P.L. 99-508
Elementary and Secondary Education Act	P.L. 89-10 as amended
Fair Labor Standards Act	P.L. 75-718 as amended
Federal Information Center Act	P.L. 95-491
Federal Property and Administrative Services Act (Sec. 203(j)(3))	P.L. 87-786 as amended
Florence Agreement implementing legislation (Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966)	P.L. 89-651 as amended

Freedom of Information Act	P.L. 89-487 as amended
General Education Provisions Act	P.L. 90-247 as amended
Higher Education Act of 1965	P.L. 89-329 as amended
Housing and Community Development Act (Title I)	P.L. 93-383 as amended
Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970	P.L. 91-648
Internal Revenue Code	USC Title 26
Japanese Technical Literature Act	P.L. 99-382
Job Training Partnership Act	P.L. 97-300 as amended
Library of Congress Books for the Blind and Handicapped	P.L. 89-522
Library of Congress American Folklife Center	P.L. 94-201 as amended
Library of Congress Deacidification Facility	P.L. 98-427
Library Services and Construction Act	P.L. 84-597 as amended
Medical Library Assistance Act	P.L. 89-291 as amended
Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act	P.L. 87-256
National Archives & Records Administration Act	P.L. 98-497
National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Act	P.L. 91-345 as amended
National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act	P.L. 89-209 as amended
National Historical Publications and Records Commission	P.L. 93-536 as amended
National Science Foundation Act of 1950	P.L. 81-507 as amended
Older Americans Act	P.L. 89-73 as amended
Paperwork Reduction Act	P.L. 96-511 as amended
Patent and Trademark Laws	USC Title 35, Sec. 301
Postal Reorganization Act of 1970	P.L. 91-375 as amended
Presidential Libraries Act	P.L. 99-323
Presidential Records Act	P.L. 95-591
Rehabilitation Act	P.L. 93-112 as amended
Single Audit Act of 1984	P.L. 98-502
Social Security Act	P.L. 89-97 as amended
Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act	P.L. 95-471
Vocational Education Act of 1963	P.L. 88-210 as amended