



AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

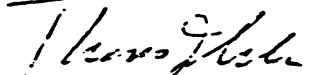
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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LINGUISTIC PLURALISM

- Whereas, Freedom of expression is the first of our liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights; and
- Whereas, The freedom to read, an important component of the freedom of expression, is essential to our democratic society; and
- Whereas, America's libraries fulfill a unique role in facilitating the freedom to read by making available a full range of resources and services to all individuals in our culturally and linguistically diverse nation, in the languages in common use in each community, in accordance with "Diversity in Collection Development: An Interpretation of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS"; and
- Whereas, English is de facto the primary language of the United States, and is important to national life, individual accomplishment, and personal enrichment and fulfillment; and
- Whereas, Several states of the United States have enacted laws which could be used to discourage, abridge or deny the rights of citizens who speak languages other than English, thus inhibiting and limiting freedom of expression and access to resources and services; and
- Whereas, Restrictionist language laws exert a chilling effect on the rights of citizens who speak and read languages other than English to inform themselves, to vote and to participate fully in the cultural and political life of the country; now therefore be it
- Resolved, That the American Library Association strongly opposes all laws, legislation and regulations relating to language which have the effect of restricting or abridging pluralism and diversity in library collections and services; and be it further
- Resolved, That the American Library Association works with state associations and other appropriate agencies in devising ways to counteract restriction arising from existing language laws and regulations; and it is further
- Resolved, That the American Library Association actively encourages and supports the provision of library resources and services in the languages in common use in each community in the United States.



ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
January 10, 1989, in Washington, D.C.


Thomas J. Galvin, Secretary of Council