

RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL POLICY ON PERMANENT PAPERS

- WHEREAS, A joint resolution to establish a national policy on permanent papers, S.J.Res. 394, was introduced in the Senate in October 1988 by Senator Claiborne Pell (D-RI), Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Pell has announced his intention to reintroduce the resolution early in 1989, and similar legislation may be introduced in the House; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association urged publishers and federal, state and local governments to use permanent paper for books and other publications of enduring value in a resolution passed by the ALA Council on January 13, 1988, (1987-88 CD #34); and
- WHEREAS, The ALA resolution noted that about one-fourth of the books in research library collections have become so embrittled that pages will break or crumble with use, and that hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent to salvage brittle materials if they continue to be printed on the acidic paper in general use since about 1850; and
- WHEREAS, Extensive research conducted over the past several decades has demonstrated that alkaline papers have a significantly longer shelf life than acidic papers; and
- WHEREAS, Production of alkaline paper in the U. S. has increased steadily within the last two years, is expected to double over the next two years, and is priced competitively; and
- WHEREAS, S.J.Res. 394 would resolve that it is the policy of the U. S. that federal publications of enduring value be produced on acid-free, permanent papers and would specifically: (1) recommend that federal agencies require use of permanent paper for publications of enduring value; (2) recommend that federal agencies require use of archival quality papers for permanently valuable federal records; (3) recommend that American publishers use permanent papers for publications of enduring value, voluntarily comply with national standards, and note use of acid-free papers in publications and listings; (4) recommend that reliable statistics be produced on current and needed production of permanent papers; (5) recommend that the State Department make known this national policy to foreign governments and international agencies; and (6) require that the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the National Library of Medicine, and the National Agricultural Library jointly monitor progress and report annually to Congress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association strongly support S.J.Res. 394, to establish a national policy on permanent papers, and its successor measures; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association express its appreciation to Senator Claiborne Pell, and offer support and assistance to Senator Pell and the chief sponsors of similar measures in the 101st Congress in establishing as national policy that federal records, books, and other publications of enduring value be produced on alkaline papers.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Washington, D. C.
January 11, 1989
(Council Document #37)