

Resolution on Use of Permanent Papers in Books and Other Publications

- WHEREAS, It has been known for at least three decades that residual acids in most paper produced since the mid-nineteenth century have drastically reduced the life of books and other publications and documents; and
- WHEREAS, The serious deterioration of the holdings of our libraries and archives has been well documented by several research libraries and archives in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, It will require expenditures of hundreds of millions of dollars over the next several decades to salvage even the most essential materials by replication on microfilm or archival paper, and to prevent deterioration by deacidification; and
- WHEREAS, This problem can be stopped at its source by the use of readily available alkaline paper with a prospective life of several hundred years; and
- WHEREAS, Standards for permanence of uncoated paper have been promulgated, to wit:

American National
Standards Institute
ANSI Z39.48-1984

Permanence of Paper for Printed Library
Materials (uncoated)

ANSI/ASTM Standard D3290-86 Bond and Ledger Paper for Permanent Records (Type I, maximum permanence)

ANSI/ASTM Standard D3208-86 Manifold Paper for Permanent Records (Type I, maximum permanence)

ANSI/ASTM Standard D3301-85 File Folders for Storage Permanent Records (Type I, maximum permanence)

ANSI/ASTM Standard D3458-85 Copies from Office Copying Machines for Permanent Records (Type I, maximum permanence; and

- WHEREAS, The standard for permanence of coated paper is in preparation by a Committee of the National Information Standards Organization; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association Council adopted in 1980 a resolution from the Resources and Technical Services Division affirming the need to move toward the production of volumes free from self-destructive substances for all texts of lasting usefulness; and resolving that the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress be requested to call together book manufacturers, papermakers, publishers, and commercial binders to encourage that they join in a cooperative effort to urge the production of books that will endure as long as they are needed; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine in February 1986 adopted a policy of actively encouraging the publishing industry to use permanent paper in the production of biomedical literature; and

- WHEREAS, The Depository Library Council to the Public Printer of the United States on October 16, 1987, adopted a recommendation that permanent paper be used for Federal government publications of enduring value; and
- WHEREAS, The National Information Standards Organization is writing to all American publishers to urge the use of paper meeting ANSI Standard Z39.48-1984 for the printing of publications of enduring value; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge all publishers to use uncoated paper meeting ANSI Standard Z39.48-1984 for publications of enduring value, and coated paper that is alkaline and can be expected to meet a similar standard for permanence; and to include a statement identifying publications using such paper on the verso of the title page of a book or on the masthead or copyright area of a periodical publication, and in catalogs, advertising, and bibliographic references; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the U. S. Congressional Joint Committee on Printing be urged to adopt standards for permanent papers and encourage Federal government agencies to use such paper for publications of enduring value; and that the appropriate agencies of State and local governments be urged to adopt similar policies; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the following organizations among others are commended for their leadership in researching and promoting the use of permanent papers for future additions to our heritage of knowledge: the National Endowment for the Humanities for financing research and preservation activities; the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Council on Library Resources and associated groups for sponsoring research and promoting the use of permanent papers; the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine and the Depository Library Council for their recent recommendations; the Library of Congress and other research libraries for their preservation activities including the quantification of the extent of the deterioration problem; the National Information Standards Organization and the American Society for Testing and Materials for developing technical standards for permanent record papers for various uses; the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry for developing methods for testing characteristics of paper; and those American publishers, especially many university presses, who have already adopted a policy of using permanent paper in their publications; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be distributed to the appropriate government and private organizations.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Antonio, Texas
January 13, 1988
(Council Document #34)