

Resolution Concerning OMB's Proposed Privatization of NTIS

WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposes to contract out or privatize the National Technical Information Service (NTIS); and

WHEREAS, Strong objections have been submitted to NTIS and OMB by the American Library Association, other professional library and information science associations, the academic and research community, individuals, and private sector organizations requiring rapid, economical access to scientific and technical information collected or generated with U. S. tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, ALA has expressed its concerns regarding the maintenance of the vital functions currently performed by NTIS, namely:

a) provision of a centralized source and permanent repository for a broad range of federal, international, state, local, and other unclassified scientific and technical reports;

b) provision of bibliographic access to the material through tools such as NTIS' Government Reports Announcements and Index;

c) dissemination of bibliographic information products of such a repository, i.e., catalogs, indexes, abstracts, and newsletters, through the Government Printing Office's Depository Library Program;

d) operation of a timely, "on demand" sales program for this scientific and technical information at prices affordable for not-for-profit libraries, educational institutions, students, small business entrepreneurs, and other similar groups; and

WHEREAS, Such contracting out or privatization of NTIS would adversely affect equal and ready access to scientific and technical information crucial to the competitive position of the U. S. in the world economy, and to the security of the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget has not responded publicly to these concerns; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association calls upon the Congress of the United States to hold hearings on OMB's proposal and, if necessary, draft and pass legislation designed to assure that the interests of the American public and the functions identified above will not be vitiated should OMB proceed with its plan to contract out or privatize NTIS; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of the Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, appropriate committees of Congress, the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of the National Technical Information Service, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
Chicago, Illinois  
January 21, 1987  
(Council Document #26.6)