

Resolution on Foreign Control of Federal Libraries
and Document Depositories

- WHEREAS, The information resources of the federal government are vital to the security and economic well being of the United States; and
- WHEREAS, Federal libraries and document depositories provide crucial support and unique resources for the development of policies, implementation of programs and ongoing operations of government agencies; and
- WHEREAS, Federal libraries and librarians are key to effective utilization of these information resources, performing an inherently governmental function; and
- WHEREAS, Federal libraries provide the longitudinal corporate memory of their agencies and their staffs, perform agency evaluations and actions under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association has opposed contracting out of federal libraries; and
- WHEREAS, The Administration has expressed its concern regarding the sensitivity of certain types of federal information; and
- WHEREAS, This Administration is using Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 to force the contracting out to organizations outside the federal government of the information services provided by federal libraries and document depositories; and
- WHEREAS, Circular A-76 does not restrict contracting for federal library and depository services only to United States firms and organizations; and
- WHEREAS, At least one major departmental library and key functions in other federal libraries are already contracted out to U. S. subsidiaries of foreign firms; and
- WHEREAS, It has been announced that a foreign owned firm is to be the successful bidder on another A-76 action which would allow this firm to take over the operation of a major scientific library in the federal government; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association believes it is not in the best interest of the American people to contract out federal information programs and organizations to foreign owned or controlled firms; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the Congress of the United States to declare a moratorium on all contracting out of federal

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libraries and document depositories and to hold further hearings on this matter; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States and his National Security Adviser, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, appropriate committees of the Congress, 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 #26.7)