

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION

The following program is based on the resolutions adopted by the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, the proposed National Library and Information Services Act (S. 1431), and the ALA Federal Legislative Policy statement. This legislative program is based on the right of all individuals regardless of age to equal opportunity to access all publicly-held information.

THE ELEMENTS OF THIS PROGRAM ARE NOT RANKED IN ANY SIGNIFICANT ORDER.

- A. Adequate funding of the Library Services and Construction Act, the Higher Education Act, and the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act as they affect library programs. Adequate funding for national library programs, including the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the Library of Congress, the National Agricultural Library, and the National Library of Medicine.
- B. Enactment of federal postal and telecommunications rates which will facilitate the sharing of resources and information between libraries, educational institutions and nonprofit information agencies.
- C. Retention of the Department of Education and continuation of a position for library and information services at the Deputy Assistant Secretary or higher level within the Department.
- D. Enactment of a National Library and Information Services Act which would provide for increased funds for interlibrary cooperation, new funds for literacy, increased federal support for maintenance of public libraries with special emphasis upon aid for rural, urban and economically depressed areas, restored funding for public library construction, increased funds for outreach and meeting the needs of special clients such as the blind, handicapped, and institutionalized, support for information and referral services, and adequate support to state agencies to permit the administration of these programs and for strengthening the capability of state agencies to meet the needs of the people of the states.
- E. Enactment of new legislation which will set guidelines for the establishment of a school library media center in each school and that states set standards for school library media centers in all schools and that local school districts plan and implement an appropriate program for their community which fits within the federal and state guidelines. Enactment of new legislation which will increase the number of certified school library media personnel in school library media centers, and authorize innovative demonstration projects and require library media instruction for all students.
- F. Enactment of new or amended legislation which will authorize increased support for academic and research libraries, provide support for academic library facilities, facilitate research collection development and expand materials preservation and personnel development programs.

- G. Establishment of a national library service for the deaf and hearing impaired with appropriate additional funding in an agency which is responsive to the needs of this constituency.
- H. Enactment of a National Indian Omnibus Library Bill.
- I. Progress toward an equitable and reasonable pricing structure for federal documents to ensure their availability to all libraries not part of the federal depository system. Strengthen and expand the system of federal depository libraries, including regional depositories.
- J. Support increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- K. Adequate funding for the National Archives and Records Service and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, with reauthorization of the NHPRC grant programs.
- L. Enactment of legislation restoring tax incentives for authors and artists to encourage the donation of their manuscripts and original works in all formats to libraries and museums.
- M. Enactment of federal programs eliminating international barriers to the exchange of library materials and information to encourage transnational data flow and providing support for the development and adoption of national and international standards.
- N. Support and actively participate in legislative and other forums to define and clarify existing and new laws and regulations dealing with copyright for print, audiovisual, and electronic formats.
- O. Support efforts toward: national information policies that facilitate access to information about federal government activities and programs and to information generated by the government; national information policies that encourage presentation of government information in clear style and convenient formats, including maximum public access to government information published in electronic and machine-readable formats; development of policies concerning ownership of information that ensure development incentives while ensuring maximum citizen access.
- P. Enactment of legislation which will: provide adequate funding to promote and encourage research and development of new information technologies and information delivery systems, provide adequate funding for direct support for development of computer-based network services to promote delivery of information to all citizens.
- Q. Safeguard the public interest and ensure maximum public access to telecommunications utilization by monitoring and influencing efforts to rewrite or amend the Communications Act as well as other legislative, regulatory and judicial activities that impact libraries and citizens' utilization of telecommunications resources.
- R. Adequate funding and administrative recognition for the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics to ensure comprehensive, accurate and timely collection and dissemination of statistical data relevant to libraries.

- S. Enactment of new or amended legislation which will support education of librarians at pre-service, post master's and continuing education levels, providing grants for institutional support of quality library education programs, for research and experimentation, for continuing education of the current workforce and of library education faculty, and for fellowships to recruit into the profession candidates qualified to meet tomorrow's information needs.

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