RESOLUTION ON THE POSSIBLE CLOSING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES LIBRARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WHEREAS, The Natural Resources Library (NRL) of the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., consists of approximately 800,000 volumes and serves officials of the department, Congress, federal agencies, and other libraries and the general public; and

WHEREAS, The NRL is a significant repository of departmental publications and scientific and technical information not readily available elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, Federal libraries depend upon the NRL’s holdings in various subject specialties and cooperate with NRL in providing reference services and interlibrary loan; and

WHEREAS, The NRL participates with other federal libraries to provide crucial support and unique resources for the development of policies, implementation of programs, and ongoing operations of government agencies; and

WHEREAS, The NRL has suffered from continuing budget cuts since 1980 and was contracted out to the private sector in 1991; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Office of the Secretary of the Interior is currently reviewing the effects of closing the NRL or further reducing its remaining resources and services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the Secretary of the Interior to support the critical programs of the NRL by providing sufficient resources to keep it fully staffed and operational; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That ALA encourage department officials to reexamine the library situation with a view to retaining sufficient in-house library expertise and staff to ensure the successful operation of library programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, the appropriate congressional committees, the Chair of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Denver, Colorado
January 27, 1993
(Council Document #27.4)