

WASHINGTON OFFICE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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RESOLUTION CONCERNING CLOSING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HEADQUARTERS LIBRARY

- WHEREAS,** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Library and Information Center is what remains of the former Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (and later HHS) Headquarters Library; and
- WHEREAS,** The HHS Library and Information Center provides library and information services to high-level government officials in the Office of the Secretary and over 3,000 other employees located in the three HHS Headquarters buildings in Washington, D.C.; and
- WHEREAS,** The HHS Library and Information Center contains a valuable archival collection of publications of the Departments of Health, Education, and Welfare/Health and Human Services; and
- WHEREAS,** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is closing the HHS Library and Information Center, replacing professional library staff, valuable reference resources, and subject expertise with self-service, on-line information retrieval services and a telefax machine; and
- WHEREAS,** Future plans for the Library's collections are uncertain, jeopardizing the integrity and preservation of a unique collection of materials on the subjects of health and human resources; and
- WHEREAS,** Federal librarians, not machines, are the key to effective utilization of these information resources; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association protest the closing of the HHS Library and Information Center; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services; the Chair, Federal Library and Information Center Committee, Library of Congress; the Comptroller General of the United States; and Representative Major Owens.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Antonio, Texas
January 29, 1992
(Council Document #20.3)