

RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN LIBRARY SERVICE

- WHEREAS, the American Library Association is committed to the enhancement of library and information services through automated processes; and
- WHEREAS, ALA has actively supported the development of national standards and systems for achieving automated delivery of library service to the nation's library users; and
- WHEREAS, ALA and its members recognize the central role of telecommunications in the creation and delivery of information, some of which is solely available through telecommunications; and
- WHEREAS, the answering of telephone reference questions and information and referral inquiries has been a long-standing staple of library service to the public, a service that may in many cases be diminished by price increases in local phone calls; and
- WHEREAS, recent developments in the telecommunications industry threaten to weaken the efforts of librarians to share resources and enhance service delivery to the nation's library users by raising library telecommunications prices as much as 183 percent; and
- WHEREAS, ALA members are concerned that such price increases will force drastic reallocations of funds away from library service and toward telecommunications charges; and
- WHEREAS, Federal policy as applied to libraries has recognized their public service functions and encouraged library development and resource-sharing through reduced library postal rates, Higher Education Act legislation, and Library Services and Construction Act legislation; and
- WHEREAS, both the Congress and the Federal Communications Commission have before them legislation and regulation of critical importance to maintaining affordable telecommunications;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Library Association respectfully request the Congress and the Federal Communications Commission reject access charges for library telecommunications pricing to create a library public-service tariff, and implement any new tariff increases gradually over a period of years.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Washington, D.C.
January 11, 1984
(Council Document #31.1)