

# AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

50 EAST HURON STREET · CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611 · (312) 944-6780



## RESOLUTION ON CABLE TELEVISION POLICY

WHEREAS the American Library Association has established total library service as one of its highest priorities, and

WHEREAS it is necessary to share resources and services among all types of libraries in order to provide all citizens with informational, educational, and recreational materials, wherever they may live, and whatever their needs may be, and

WHEREAS the ever-increasing dispersion of population, rising levels of education, and widely scattered information resources make it increasingly difficult to deliver information speedily to citizens in need of it, and

WHEREAS these considerations make it incumbent upon librarians to develop new kinds of services to their clients, particularly the disadvantaged or unserved, and

WHEREAS American libraries need to be recognized as prime potential users of telecommunications facilities, allowing the linking together of geographically separated institutions, and

WHEREAS cable communication is emerging as one of the most promising media for sharing information resources and delivering it to other libraries and to clients, and

WHEREAS the American Library Association has joined with representatives from over one hundred twenty-five national organizations in a coalition called PUBLI-CABLE whose common interest is in the preservation of public access to at least 20% of channel capacity in present and future cable systems, and

WHEREAS the American Library Association is a member of the Joint Council on Educational Telecommunications which, in comments to the Federal Communications Commission, has urged that the Commission require that all CATV systems "make available a minimum of 20% of system capacity on a free basis for local, non-commercial educational and public service use,"

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the American Library Association endorse this principle and convey to the Federal Communications Commission, the Office of Telecommunications Policy in the White House, and to the Congress its commitment to the need for free access to a minimum of 20% of the capacity of cable systems so that libraries may extend and enhance their services through the growing potential of cable communications.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
at the 1972 Midwinter Meeting,  
Chicago, Illinois  
January 26, 1972

Transmitted by:  
David H. Clift  
Executive Director  
American Library Association