

Membership Resolution for Monday, June 25, 1979

1978-79  
Membership  
Resolution # 1

I. RESOLUTION

1. Whereas the ethnic populations in America represent an enormous potential source for library patronage; and
2. Whereas there is no federal library legislation addressed specifically and directly to the need for library services to ethnic populations; and
3. Whereas libraries have much to offer by way of servicing and programming which could contribute to the recognition of these diverse groups and to the concept of ethnic pluralism; and
4. Whereas these ethnic groups should be brought into the library orbit as library users so that they may in turn come to the support of libraries around budget time; and
5. Whereas it is necessary to develop cooperation among community-based ethnic groups, public libraries, schools and institutions of higher learning;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Congress consider and approve legislation directed to library services which meet the needs of ethnic groups in America.

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- II. The following model legislation is proposed to fill this important need of serving the ethnic groups described above. (Ethnic groups may be identified by race, language, and/or national origin.)

PROPOSED LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act) TITLE V --  
To provide planning and implementation grants for library services to ethnic groups.

Purpose: To enable libraries of all types to develop planning proposals to study, organize, and deliver services and build collections for the ethnic populations in the community.

- Provisions:
1. Planning and implementation grants may be used by libraries to conduct comprehensive surveys in the community to identify the ethnic mix therein.
  2. Planning and implementation grants may be used by libraries to encourage ethnic groups in the community to cooperate in the planning, delivery and evaluation of library programs.
  3. Planning and implementation grants may be used for the special training of library personnel and community representatives in the delivery of library services. For this purpose, the special training may be provided by library schools and other bonafide library institutions.
  4. Planning and implementation grants may be used by libraries, library schools and other bonafide educational institutions, to promote and encourage diverse types of library information facilities in ethnic communities, e.g., Information and Referral Centers, Cultural and/or Educational Centers, joint school and public library programming, etc.
  5. Planning and implementation grants may be used to secure and process the basic media resources required to service ethnic populations; (e.g., bilingual materials, foreign-language books, films, tapes, posters, comics, records, etc.)

and therefore be it further resolved that this membership meeting of ALA on Monday, June 25, 1979 approve the sending of the above resolution to the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Science for its earnest consideration; and further

that this action of the membership be reported to the press.

David Cohen, Coordinator, SRRT Ethnic Materials  
Information Exchange Task Force  
C. Michael Diodati, Chair, Subcommittee of  
Minority Concerns, OISD