

LIBRARIES AND THE WAR

A National Platform

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

I. WAR INFORMATION CENTERS

The Association urges:

The designation, by the appropriate government agency, of some library in every community as a War Information Center;

The prompt and adequate distribution to these libraries of government publications related to the war, so that essential information may be available to all the people of the community.

2. CIVILIAN DEFENSE

The Association recommends federal assistance to states and local communities for:

Establishment and maintenance of community library service in the greatly expanded defense areas, as essential in education, recreation, and morale;

Adequate provision of technical books, manuals, and periodicals, and of competent professional help, to improve the efficiency and output of workers in defense industry and in defense training.

3. LIBRARY FACILITIES FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

The Association commends:

The War and Navy Departments for establishing and maintaining library service for the armed forces, with good collections of books and periodicals and more than 150 librarians.

It urges:

More adequate and suitable camp library quarters than are now available;
The maintenance of regimental branch libraries in the large army camps;
More speed in the establishment of libraries as new camps are opened;
Improved library service in the smaller posts;
More adequate library facilities for men on duty outside Continental United States;

Further development of Navy library service, to keep pace with Navy expansion.

It calls on:

The people of the United States to respond generously to the Victory Book Campaign of the A.L.A., the A.R..C., and the U. S. O., to supplement the collections purchased from government funds.

4. THE LIBRARY SERVICE DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICE OF EDUCATION

The Association recommends:

That facilities be given to the Library Service Division of the Office of Education to enable it to assist libraries to be of the utmost service to their communities and to the Government.

5. POSTWAR PLANNING

The Association commends:

The activities of government and other agencies in planning for the postwar period.

It urges:

That adequate attention be given to the possibilities of great expansion of agencies for community service including libraries and adult education.

6. CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

It welcomes:

The leadership of the Department of State and the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs in promoting cultural relations with other countries.

It pledges:

Its own support to international cultural cooperation and to the maintenance in this country of respect for the contributions of all races and nations.

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