

Resolution on Publishers and Practices Which Discriminate Against Library Users

Whereas, An increasing number of publishers and distributors have adopted policies that negatively impact the ability of libraries to provide content in formats needed by their patrons; and

Whereas, The limitations imposed by publishers and distributors have not been clearly defined, nor has the rationale for these limitations been provided; and

Whereas, These publishers and distributors represent a growing trend that is troubling to American Library Association (ALA) members; and

Whereas, The effect of these policies is to withhold content from library users, many of whom rely solely on the library for their content; and

Whereas, The ALA has a Working Group on Digital Content in Libraries examining many of the issues identified above; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Opposes any discriminatory policies of publishers and distributors which adversely impact access to content by library users.
2. Directs that the Working Group on Digital Content in Libraries to review the situation and recommend appropriate action and/or appropriate parties who should be informed of this resolution.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association

Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council
Tuesday, January 24, 2012
In Dallas, Texas