

Resolution on Access for Physical Mobility Impaired Conference Attendees

Whereas, Access is one of the American Library Association's (ALA) core values (Policy 40.1); and

Whereas, ALA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the "use of any facilities" during conferences and includes this policy as "a part of ALA contracts for the use of space" (ALA Policy #7.1.1); and

Whereas, The current arrangements for providing assistive devices (i.e., electric scooters and wheelchairs) for people with physical mobility impairments constitutes an unnecessary barrier to equal participation in the association and its conference; and, now, therefore, be it

Resolved That the American Library Association:

1. ALA adds the following paragraph to the end of policy #7.1.3, Conference Arrangements for Participants with Disabilities:

"Assistive devices for attendees with physical mobility impairments shall be made available by reservation. Devices not reserved in advance shall be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. Using whatever means necessary, these devices shall be located adjacent to the conference center's main entrance or to the primary registration area for pick-up and delivery."

2. ALA implements this policy in time for the July 2009 Annual Conference.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Wednesday, January 28, 2009
In Denver, Colorado



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and ALA Council Secretary