

**RESOLUTION ON TRANSPARENCY AND OPENNESS  
IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

- WHEREAS,** Equal, ready and equitable access to government information is a primary tenet of a free society; and
- WHEREAS,** The American Library Association has long supported transparency and openness within the federal government; and
- WHEREAS,** President Barack Obama, on his first day in office, issued the Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government to disclose information in forms that the public can find and use; and
- WHEREAS,** The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, issued an Open Government Directive (M-10-06) on December 8, 2009, directing executive departments and agencies to take specific actions to implement the principles of transparency, public participation, access, and collaboration set forth in the President's Memorandum; and
- WHEREAS,** President Obama issued a new executive order (E.O. 13526) on December 29, 2009, "Classified National Security Information," that will alter the way the executive branch classifies documents, reducing over-classification and the length of time the public must wait to view documents; and
- WHEREAS,** Executive agencies have made available raw data as well as statistical reports that can be analyzed by researchers, policy makers and the public in order to participate in government initiatives; and
- WHEREAS,** The National Archives and Record Administration has created the Office of Government and Information Services to function as an ombudsman in matters involving the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), with responsibility for reviewing FOIA activities government-wide to assist in the resolution of disputes between requesters and agencies; and
- WHEREAS,** America's libraries remain willing to help the U.S. government ensure equal, ready, and equitable access to the broadest array of historic and current information and other resources by and about the U.S. government; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Commends the President of the United States and the Office of Management and Budget for improving the federal government's policies and capabilities for making government information available to the American public in an open, timely, participatory and transparent manner.
2. Calls upon the Obama Administration to support federal agencies providing services already in place that assist the public in their access and use of government information, including federal agency libraries, the Government Printing Office, the National Technical Information Service, and the General Services Administration's Office of Citizen Services.
3. Sends copies of this resolution to President Barack Obama, Peter Orszag, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and other interested parties.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Wednesday, January 19, 2010  
In Boston, Massachusetts



Keith Michael Fiels  
ALA Executive Director and  
Secretary of the ALA Council