Resolution on Withdrawn Electronic Government Information

WHEREAS, permanent public access to government information, including information on federal government web sites, is essential to an informed public; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the federal government to ensure permanent public access to that information; and

WHEREAS, information published by an agency, regardless of format, is a federal record; and

WHEREAS, for various reasons, federal agencies removed, without public notification, information and publications from their web sites; and

WHEREAS, many federal records removed from public access have continuing value; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies currently remove information from web sites with no provisions for bibliographic control and permanent public access; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urges federal agencies to ensure permanent public access through a searchable archive to information no longer available on their current web sites; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urges federal agencies to comply with Title 44 amendments contained in the E-Government Act (PL 107-347) and place required record schedules on the web sites for public access; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urges all federal agencies to make available to the public an inventory of documents and other information scheduled for permanent retention that have been removed from their web sites; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of Management and Budget, the United States Congress and other entities as appropriate.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Philadelphia, PA
January 29, 2003

Keith Fiels
Secretary of the ALA Council