

2001-2002 CD#20.12
2002 ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**RESOLUTION ON EXECUTIVE AGENCY PROCUREMENT OF
PRINTING AND DUPLICATING**

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-02-07 proposes executive branch policy allowing agencies to produce or procure their own printing without going through the Government Printing Office (GPO); and

WHEREAS, the impact on public access to government information through the Federal Depository Library Program was inadequately addressed by the memorandum; and

WHEREAS, OMB has recommended that Chapter 48, Subpart 8.8 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (Federal Acquisitions Regulations) be amended to reflect the policy outlined in OMB Memorandum M-02-07; and

WHEREAS, public comment on the proposed regulations to amend the Federal Acquisitions Regulations has not yet been requested; and

WHEREAS, Title 44, Section 501 of the *United States Code* requires Executive branch agencies to procure their printing through GPO; and

WHEREAS, for over a century GPO's role as central coordinator of printing has facilitated the procuring, indexing, cataloging, and distributing of government information to the public; and

WHEREAS, the decentralization of printing for executive agencies as proposed in the memorandum would disrupt the efficient link between production and cataloging, indexing and distribution of government information; and

WHEREAS, the decentralization of printing would disrupt the dissemination of government information through the Federal Depository Library Program, the GPO Sales Program, the Library of Congress International Exchange Program, By-Law distribution to the National Archives, Senate and House Libraries, the Library of Congress and *GPO Access*; and

WHEREAS, OMB claims there will be savings of \$50 million to \$70 million by permitting agencies to perform or procure their own printing, while GPO's analysis shows that if all executive branch printing were to be removed from GPO, the cost to the Government could potentially increase over current levels by \$231.5 million to \$335.2 million in the first year, and from \$152.8 million to \$256.5 million annually thereafter; and

WHEREAS, a recent study from the Department of Health and Human Services, "*Review of the National Institutes of Health Printing Program*," documented that large amounts of government information produced outside of GPO are not sent to Depository libraries in Compliance with Title 44, Chapters 17 and 19 of the *United States Code*; and

WHEREAS, a 1998 management audit of GPO by Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., under contract to the General Accounting Office found widespread support in the executive branch for GPO's services; and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association has long supported a centralized procurement program for printing services; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urge OMB to ensure executive agencies compliance with Title 44 of the *United States Code*; and be it further

RESOLVED, that urge OMB solicit public comment on the proposed regulations to amend the Federal Acquisitions Regulations through the *Federal Register*; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urge appropriate Congressional committees to hold hearings on OMB Memorandum M-02-07 to assess and address its fiscal impact and potential effect on dissemination to Federal Depository Libraries and public access to government information.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Atlanta, GA
June 19, 2002

Wm R. Gordon
Secretary of the ALA Council