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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Item: RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS Item Number: 216.8.1  
Approved by: ALA Council Page: 1 of 1  
Issue Date: June 1972 Supersedes: \_\_\_\_\_

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Human Rights

WHEREAS, The American Library Association is committed to human rights and social justice, regardless of origin, color, creed, race, country, or religion; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association honors these commitments through the activities of its members organizationally, and individually;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the American Library Association shall have no affiliation with, memberships in, nor formal relationships with organizations which violate its principles and commitments to human rights and social justice, as set forth in ALA's policies, procedures, and position statements, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Approved by: ALA Executive Board Page: 1 of 1  
Issue Date: June 1960 Supersedes: \_\_\_\_\_

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ALA Membership

To guide the Association in considering membership invitations from outside organizations, it shall be the Association's policy to consider such invitations in terms of

- (a) The Association's responsibility to support the objectives of the organization
- (b) The extent to which participation in the organization will advance ALA's own objectives
- (c) The demand on the budget

And further, That PEBCO\* review at five-year intervals all ALA memberships in order to ascertain their continued desirability.

\*Program Evaluation and Budget Committee succeeded by Committee on Program Evaluation and Budget (COPES) as of January, 1969

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Racist Institutions: Opposition to Support of  
Public, academic, or school libraries which  
provide services or materials to racist institu-  
tions conceived for the purpose of circumvent-  
ing desegregation of public schools may be cen-  
sured by the American Library Association  
under procedures to be developed and approved  
by Council.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Item: CIVIL RIGHTS Item Number: 101.3  
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Racist institutions - opposition to support of

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court of this land has called for the desegregation of public schools by February 1, 1970; and

WHEREAS, Public, academic and school libraries in areas where desegregation has been ordered are in some cases lending and in other cases planning to lend materials to racist institutions conceived for the purpose of circumventing the law of the land; and

WHEREAS, Such school administrators and many civil leaders in such areas have in fact asked for active support from libraries because funding for their schools and institutions is inadequate to provide for libraries and textbooks; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association is cognizant of the social responsibilities of libraries serving the people of the United States and is on record as being opposed to racism in any and all of its forms;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the libraries or librarians who do in fact through either services or materials support any such racist institutions be censured by the American Library Association, and that the ALA staff give the widest possible publicity to this action.

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Discrimination - racial

Upon recommendation of the Executive Board and the Committee on Intellectual Freedom the following statement was adopted by the Council and later amended by the Membership:

In a free society, a library is one of the primary instruments through which citizens gain understanding and enlightenment. The institution, the people who work for it, and the professional associations with which they identify themselves should be worthy examples of the high principles which libraries endeavor to promote.

The American Library Association holds that so long as one librarian is unable to make his full contribution to the library profession by reason of racial, religious, or personal belief, and so long as one individual citizen cannot realize this full potential as a useful member of society because of such artificial barriers, the welfare of the nation is diminished. The Association cannot fulfill its obligations until it obtains the same rights and privileges for all its members and gains the same freedom of access to all libraries for all citizens.

THEREFORE:

1. Concerning Individual Membership.

The Council calls on each and every member of the American Library Association as a citizen and a librarian, by vigorous personal example, to work in libraries and in chapters so that discrimination for reasons of race, religion, or personal belief may cease and that all people may have equal access to the tools of learning. Thus the educational process will contribute in an increasing way to the national good and purpose, undiminished and unrestrained by the frictions of prejudice and misunderstanding.

2. Concerning Chapter Status, The Council shall--

- a. Inform the chapters of the basic rights and privileges of membership as stated here and request the chapters to make every immediate effort to secure and grant these rights to each member, with special emphasis on the requirements of Article III of the American Library Association Constitution. These rights are:

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1) To receive notices. 2) To attend meetings. 3) To speak.  
4) To vote. 5) To present motions, resolutions, or other  
business. 6) To nominate. 7) To be a candidate for office.  
8) To resign, if all obligations to the organization have  
been fulfilled. 9) To have a hearing before expulsion or other  
penalties are applied. 10) To inspect official records of the  
organization. 11) To insist on the enforcement of the rules of  
parliamentary law. 12) To exercise any other rights given by  
the constitution or rules of the organization.

- b. Require chapters to certify that they are meeting these require-  
ments. Chapters may request of the Council postponement of appli-  
cation of this provision for a period of time not to exceed  
three years. If they are unable to do so, or the Council is not  
satisfied that they are following the policies prescribed, such  
chapters shall be asked to withdraw until the provisions can be  
complied with.
3. Concerning Institutional Membership, the Council shall--
- a. Pursue with diligence the study of access to libraries so that  
factual data on this subject are collected.
- b. Make public promptly the results of this study.
- c. Urge libraries which are institutional members not to discriminate  
among users on the basis of race, religion, or personal belief,  
and if such discrimination now exists to bring it to an end as  
speedily as possible.
- d. Advise libraries applying henceforth for institutional membership  
of the Association's attitude toward and general policies relating  
to access to libraries and that in accepting institutional membership  
they are also accepting the responsibility for working toward free  
and ready access to libraries by all persons regardless of race,  
religion, or personal belief.