

RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHT TO KNOW

- WHEREAS, the American Library Association strongly believes in the right of individuals to have access to information, gathered and assembled by the federal government using public funds, which is necessary for their participation in public affairs and for personal fulfillment; and
- WHEREAS, the American Library Association strongly believes that any information policy management decisions made by the federal government should protect the right of the individual and of the private business sector to a level of access to information required for economic growth; and
- WHEREAS, all types of libraries play an important role in the management and dissemination of information; and
- WHEREAS, the present administration has curtailed funds for publishing government collected data; and
- WHEREAS, the Departments of Energy and Defense have proposed regulations restricting access to previously distributed unclassified information; and
- WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget has requested public comment on full recovery of costs and other aspects of federal information management;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Library Association ask the President of the United States and other appropriate federal agencies to insure that information management policies promulgated, protect and provide for equal and ready access to federally produced information.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
Washington, D.C.  
January 11, 1984  
(Council Document #31.6)