

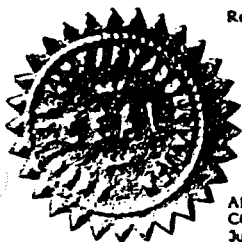
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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RESOLUTION ON REAUTHORIZATION OF THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

- Whereas, The American Library Association has long held that the Federal government has an affirmative obligation and responsibility to collect information and disseminate that information, regardless of format, to the public; and
- Whereas, Access to government information is a public right and a principle function and goal of Federal government information policy; and
- Whereas, Attempts to reduce the paperwork burden on the public should not result in diminished access to government information; and
- Whereas, The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) as implemented by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has resulted in less government information and less public access to government information; and
- Whereas, OMB has interpreted PRA to encourage privatization of Federal information products and services to the detriment of public access to government information; and
- Whereas, Congress is now considering the reauthorization of the PRA including proposals that would dramatically alter statutory public access provisions as well as OMB's role in Federal information dissemination policymaking; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the American Library Association call on the Congress of the United States to ensure that the reauthorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act contains a statement of principle affirming:
- (1) The public's right to equal and ready access to government information; and
 - (2) The government's affirmative obligation to collect and disseminate information; and
 - (3) The reliance on checks and balances on the power to make and implement information policy; and
 - (4) The historic and continuing role of the Depository Library Program as a guaranteed channel of no-fee access for the public to government information; and
 - (5) That any fee the government charges for acquiring or using government information be less than or limited to the marginal cost of dissemination; and
 - (6) That government information should be in the public domain; and
 - (7) The government's obligation to archive and preserve government information, regardless of format; and
 - (8) The privacy rights of individuals and groups from unwarranted government intrusion; and be it further
- Resolved, That the American Library Association urge Congress to take the following additional actions in regard to the Paperwork Reduction Act:
- (1) Ensure that limits are placed on the power of any one agency, including OMB, to control collection, creation, elimination, and/or dissemination of Federal government information; and
 - (2) Ensure that agencies such as OMB, the National Archives and Records Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and any other entities that may be involved in Federal information policy-making, provide guidance which fulfills, conforms with, and implements the fundamental principles stated above; and
 - (3) Ensure that Federal agency information policies and dissemination practices fulfill, conform with, and implement these fundamental principles; and
 - (4) Ensure that the final appeals process on Federal agency policies and practices be public, outside OMB, and subject to direct Congressional oversight and appropriate judicial recourse; and
 - (5) Ensure that all Federal agencies contribute to a comprehensive bibliographic database of their information products, databases and services, and that this national bibliographic database of Federal information resources be regularly updated and distributed in multiple formats through the Depository Library Program and other appropriate channels; and
 - (6) Direct all Federal agencies to comply with bibliographic standards of MARC format and current Anglo-American Cataloging Rules; and
 - (7) Direct NIST to continue to promulgate standards for Federal information systems and databases in order to increase efficiency, compatibility, usability, and accessibility; and
 - (8) Direct the Archivist of the United States to determine the definition of a record under the PRA and to issue rules, regulations and guidelines to insure the preservation of Federal information for historical purposes regardless of format; and
 - (9) Change the name of the Paperwork Reduction Act to reflect more accurately the broad purposes of the Act; and be it further
- Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Chairs of the appropriate Senate and House Committees, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Archivist of the United States, the Joint Committee on Printing, the Public Printer, and the Librarian of Congress.



ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
June 28, 1989, in Dallas, Texas
Transmitted by


Thomas J. Galvin, Secretary of Council