

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

50 EAST HURON STREET · CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611 · (312) 944-6780



RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE U.S. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET'S CIRCULAR A-76 AND FEDERAL LIBRARIES

- WHEREAS, For over 20 years federal libraries and their contractors have worked together successfully to ensure that federal libraries provide continuous, cost-effective, high quality library service to the staffs of federal agencies and to the American public as well; and
- WHEREAS, Federal libraries pioneered in this public sector-private sector effort by enlisting the help, advice, and services of institutions and businesses which could provide superior library and information products; and
- WHEREAS, The quality of service in all libraries depends primarily on two components; first, on the professional skills and competencies of the library and information specialists responsible for managing or rendering service to a library's patrons; and second, on the continuity and retention of a professional staff to provide the institutional memory and core capability required to properly and effectively handle requests concerning an organization's policies, past activities, missions, and functions; and
- WHEREAS, Librarians and library patrons in both the public and private sectors are concerned about the continuity and quality of library and information resources and services available from the federal government; and
- WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget has classified all federal library operations as "commercial activities" in its Circular A-76, entitled "Performance of Commercial Activities," thereby overlooking both the professional nature and the client relationship which distinguish normal operations in libraries; and
- WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget's A-76 classification of federal library activities as "commercial activities" similar to the activities of laundries, dry cleaners, motor pools and refuse collection constitutes a major distortion of the nature and purpose of all libraries; and
- WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget's Productivity Improvement Program guidelines of September 27, 1984, also lists "Library" as one of the 14 activities to be studied by all federal agencies for contracting out purposes, and directs federal agencies not to conduct productivity reviews or A-76 studies of "small activities under 10 FTE" or of "activities where employees are in a . . . contract monitoring capacity;" and
- WHEREAS, The staffs of over 90 per cent of federal libraries are less than 10 persons and the staffs of most federal libraries are now and have been for many years monitoring contracts with the private sector, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association considers the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's classification of federal libraries as "commercial activities" to be inaccurate and inappropriate; therefore, the Association urges the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to remove "Library operations" from the list of commercial activities included in Circular A-76 (Attachment A); and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urges the Director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to remove "library" from the Attachment to the September 27, 1984, Memorandum on OMB's Productivity Improvement Program.



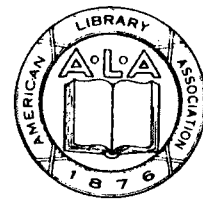
ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
January 9, 1985 in Washington, D.C.
Transmitted by

Robert Wedgeworth

Robert Wedgeworth, Secretary of Council

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

50 EAST HURON STREET · CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611 · (312) 944-6780



February 18, 1985

David A. Stockman, Director
Office of Management & Budget
Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Stockman

During the 1985 American Library Association Midwinter Meeting, held in Washington, concern was expressed at the classification of federal librarians in OMB Circular A-76. The governing body of the Association, the ALA Council, adopted the enclosed Resolution urging that "Library" be removed from Attachment A to the September 27, 1984, Memorandum on OMB's Productivity Improvement Program.

We hope that you will give favorable consideration to this request.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Robert Wedgeworth'.

Robert Wedgeworth
Executive Director

m
enclosure
cc: President Josey