

**2006 CD #20.3  
ALA Midwinter Meeting  
January 25, 2006**

**Resolution on OMB's Guidance to Agencies Pertaining to the Implementation of  
Section 207(d) of the E-Government Act of 2002**

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the E-Government Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-347) "To promote the use of the Internet and emerging technologies within and across Government agencies to provide citizen-centric services," recognizing that the Federal government has had uneven success in applying advances in information technology to enhance governmental functions and services; and

WHEREAS, Section 207(c) of the Act on "Accessibility, Usability, and Preservation of Government Information" required the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish the Interagency Committee on Government Information (ICGI); and

WHEREAS, ICGI was charged with making policy recommendations, after consultation with the public, on categorization, access to and preservation of electronic government information; and

WHEREAS, Section 207(d) of the Act on Categorization of Information required ICGI to submit recommendations to the Director of OMB on the adoption of standards, which are open to the maximum extent feasible, to enable the organization and categorization of government information in a way that is searchable electronically, including by searchable identifiers; and in ways that are interoperable across agencies; and

WHEREAS, Section 207(d) of the Act also required ICGI to define categories of government information which should be required to be classified under the standards; and

WHEREAS, the Categorization of Government Information Working Group of ICGI followed an open and deliberative process with in-put from major stakeholders, and in December 2004, transmitted eight recommendations to the Director of OMB that included a comprehensive definition of "categorizable Government information" and recommended standards for the organization and categorization of government information; and

WHEREAS, in December 2005 OMB issued Memorandum M-06-02 on "Improving Public Access to and Dissemination of Government Information and Using the Federal Enterprise Architecture Data Reference Model," ignoring the Working Group's definition of "categorizable Government information," which appropriately included not only

information disseminated to the public but also information that may be withheld from disclosure, publication, or dissemination; and

WHEREAS, the Memorandum further ignored the Working Group's seven recommendations on standards necessary to organize and categorize government information in ways that ensure interoperability across agencies; and

WHEREAS, by failing to follow the Working Group's recommendations, which ALA supports, the Director of OMB has abrogated his responsibility and failed to meet either the letter or the spirit of Section 207(d) of the Act; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the American Library Association (ALA) urges Congress to hold timely public hearings on the manner in which the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is implementing Section 207(d) of the E-Government Act of 2002; and be it further

RESOLVED that ALA urges Congress to include expert witnesses representing libraries and the public; and be it further

RESOLVED that ALA urges Congress to provide the necessary oversight to ensure that the recommendations of the Categorization of Government Information Working Group are properly implemented; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ALA urges Congress to require the Director of OMB to withdraw Memorandum M-06-02, to consult further with the public stakeholders, including the library community, and to issue a revised policy that properly implements Section 207(d) of the E-Government Act of 2002.

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Policy History 6/28/89; CD#40, 1/11/89; CD#42, 1/11/89

Endorsed in principle by COL Government Information Subcommittee 01/23/2006

Endorsed in principle by the GODORT Legislation Committee 01/23/2006

Endorsed in principle by the GODORT 01/23/2006

Endorsed in principle by IFC January 24, 2006

Adopted by COL, January 23, 2006