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**RESOLUTION ON AGENCY GUIDELINES ON  
INFORMATION QUALITY**

**WHEREAS**, the people's right of access to government information is the cornerstone of our democratic society; and

**WHEREAS**, continued and permanent public access to government information must be maintained to ensure the present and future accountability of the government; and

**WHEREAS**, delay or removal of government information inhibits public access and the public's ability to use and evaluate government information and assess government activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Management and Budget, in response to Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for FY 2001 (Public Law 106-554), has issued Information Quality Guidelines (66 FR 49718, September 28, 2001 and as amended 67 FR 8452, February 22, 2002); and

**WHEREAS**, federal agencies are in the process of drafting Information Quality Guidelines that must be submitted by agencies to OMB for review by August 1, 2002 and that will go into effect on October 1, 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information disseminated by federal agencies are important goals that must be accomplished in ways that do not restrict or inhibit access to government information; and

**WHEREAS**, the guidelines provide for a process of challenge and review for quality of government information that may result in delays in dissemination or removal of the information from public access; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of the proposed OMB guidelines will result in an administrative system that will place additional burdens on agencies, further straining limited resources available for information dissemination activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Library Association supports public access to information collected, compiled, produced, and disseminated by and for the government of the United States; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the American Library Association urge federal agencies to provide public access to the government information being challenged under the quality guidelines; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the American Library Association urge Congress to hold hearings that assess the impact of the Information Quality Guidelines on dissemination of and public access to government information.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
Atlanta, GA  
June 19, 2002

Wm R. Gordon  
Secretary of the ALA Council