

RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED OMB CIRCULAR AS PUBLISHED IN
THE FEDERAL REGISTER, vol. 45, no. 112, Monday, June 9,
1980, pp. 38461-38463.

- WHEREAS, The American Library Association consistently supports free access to government information as defined in the U.S. Code, Title 44, which encompasses all information published at government expense, including material for administrative and operational purposes which has public interest or educational value, and
- WHEREAS, The White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services has passed resolutions encouraging free citizen access to information through libraries as well as encouraging support and expansion of regional and local depository libraries providing access to government information, and
- WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget has published a proposed circular for the purpose of regulating the management and dissemination of information held by the Executive Branch of the Federal Government which is produced or created with federal funding, and
- WHEREAS, This proposed circular defines as public information only that material which the issuing agency itself actively seeks to disseminate or otherwise make available to the public, and
- WHEREAS, The above definition may seriously restrict the kind of materials distributed to libraries and the public, and
- WHEREAS, The proposed circular provides no appeal from an internal agency decision which limits public distribution, now
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association support the concept of improved management in the implementation of existing laws and regulations governing the dissemination of government information, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association support a change in the definition of public information in the proposed circular which will provide for public access to information produced at government expense as defined in Title 44, U.S. Code, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association supports an addition to the proposed circular requiring all agencies to utilize the nation's library system for the dissemination of government information, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association support an amendment to the proposed circular to create an appeal mechanism to prevent the limitation of information available to the public, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association convey these positions to the Office of Management and Budget and the appropriate congressional committees before July 25, 1980, and encourage its chapters and members to do the same.

Endorsed by COL 7/2/80