

RESOLUTION ON HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

- WHEREAS, The Higher Education Act is due for reauthorization in the 99th Congress; and
- WHEREAS, In "A Nation at Risk," libraries, including college and research libraries, are essential to the attainment of excellence in education and a learning society; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association has had a long standing commitment to attaining excellence in education by supporting federal programs such as the Higher Education Act, particularly title II which funds programs for college and research libraries and for training and research; and
- WHEREAS, The Higher Education Act has benefitted libraries substantially by supporting acquisitions, training, research and demonstration programs, preservation activity, resource sharing, strengthening unique collections, bibliographic control, and technological development; and
- WHEREAS, College and research libraries continue to face increased pressures to serve all citizens and to provide more information resources in both traditional and new formats which cost far more than their budgets can afford; and
- WHEREAS, In order to provide collections suitable to support the curriculum and research programs in higher education, many academic libraries should be targeted for supplemental federal funds on the basis of need criteria being developed and recommended by the library profession; and
- WHEREAS, New technologies require continuous training for librarians, minority recruitment is crucial, and research and demonstration projects can have a significant impact on library productivity and resource sharing; and
- WHEREAS, Unique resources must continue to be strengthened, preserved, and made available for national and international research; and
- WHEREAS, Academic libraries must adapt new technologies in order to assure users access to textual and bibliographic databases and must cooperate to promote access to information through resource sharing, but are often unable to afford startup costs; and
- WHEREAS, Other programs included in the Higher Education Act can benefit from and contribute to strong library programs and services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Congress strengthen academic libraries which are integral to the information infrastructure of our nation's educational and research programs by extending and amending the Higher Education Act; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress fund all Higher Education Act title II programs at the authorized levels so that libraries can provide the materials and services needed to support an information society.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Washington, D.C.
January 9, 1985
(Council Document #28.2)