

Resolution Celebrating the U.S. Ratification and Passage of the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act

Whereas ALA promotes equal access to information for all people;

Whereas the right to read is a fundamental human right and central to a free society;

Whereas the vast majority of published works are not available in formats that are accessible to people with print disabilities;

Whereas the circulation of accessible copies needs to be expanded around the world;

Whereas ALA advocated for an international treaty that was signed on June 14, 2012, at the World Intellectual Property Organization for an exception to copyright for people with print disabilities;

Whereas ALA worked with library associations, the publishing industry, the International Federation of the Blind, and American Council for the Blind to develop legislative language agreeable to all parties;

Whereas the international treaty and its implementing legislation includes the making of digital copies, expanding access and distribution.

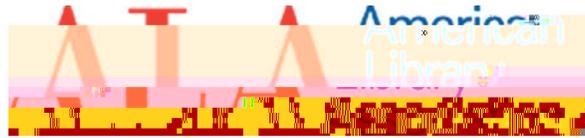
Whereas libraries can play a greater role in improving the lives of people with disabilities because they are identified as authorized entities who can make accessible copies as an exception to copyright law;

Whereas the definition of the print disabled in the treaty and implementing legislation includes people with physical disabilities that prevent them from using a print book, people with dyslexia and people with learning disabilities, clarifying the beneficiary pool;

Whereas people with print disabilities who speak a language other than English will have access to accessible copies in foreign languages;

Whereas the United States can share accessible copies to eligible contracting parties around the world, including developing countries;

Whereas the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act was passed unanimously in Congress and was signed by the President; now, therefore, be it



- that the American Library Association
1. celebrates the passage of the 4arrakesh 5reaty 8mpl