1977 ALA Membership
Document #7

FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION. I ii .

WHEREAS, information is essential for all persons at all age levels and all economic and social

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 1-4, 1977
Washington, DC - 6 -

that 11 1 ibraries are sti 11 not charging for those things that have been ' 'tradltionally'free. 11 President Jones announced that the Executive Board met with Mrs. Horn on her resolutions and by a 5-4 vote recommends to Council that this be postponed until more information Is acquired. Mrs. Horn pointed out that her resolution was not concerned solely with data base information. Grace SloclJll urged defeat of the resolution, hoping that Council would ask for the development of a clear, well thoughtout statement on freedom of access to information in libraries

Galvin's second moved 7o n ad

of council for rewording for report 7o Council as soon as possible;
74is 7o 7able.

Council reconvened,
Moon took t4e chair.

Mr. with. n unidentified seconder moved 7o amend 74e motion 7o
7o 74e of 74e whole for ten minutes instead of 7o n d hoc committee; 74e motion was DEFEATED. Mrs. Fast's motion 7o refer was lso Dorothy

Broderick and

a

seconder called for a

Roll Call
Vote which
was granted by 74e Chair. The original motion, "That ALA reaffirm
74e concept of access 7o information without charge 7o individu ls, in
and other tax-supported libraries; that ALA go on against the ch~rging of 7o individu ls by 7ax-supported libraries for providing information and reference services which have been free," was DEFEATED by the Roll

Call

2) with four abstentions.

Barbara Ford, Coordinator of 74e Social Responsibilities Round Table, was
recognized 7o issue a special 7o Council 7o SRRT's program, Fee vs.
Paid Services, 7o be Detroit, June

19,

4:30

P.M.

RESOLUTION ON FEE CHARGES

REFERENCE (CD #12) -

8(b).
Zoia presented 74e Resolution, amending 74e original CD 7o ask 74at 74e President of ALA explore ways 7o 74e variety of fees being charged ... (ra74er 74an an ad

hoc

committee), and 74at a progress report be made 7o
Council at 74e 1977

Annual Conference.

President-Elect Moon pointed out 74at
74e Board

recommended

74is amendment, and 74at it was felt 74at 74e President likely act quickly 74an

a

committee and

at 74e same 7ime

look

into

7o find 74e money get 74e objective of 74e Resolution
under

way.

On Mrs. motion, with an unidentified second, it

VOTED, T4at Council

approves

74e Resolution on Fee

Charges for Information

and Reference

as

amended.

RESOLUTION ON COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES (CD #13). Richard Waters pointed out 74at 74e 74rust of 74e Resolution is 7o open up opportunities for more members 7o become active in committee work,

and

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1976-77 Al..A'GOUNCIL
DOCUMENT # I. I

RESOLUTION: FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION

WHEREAS

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IHFatMlTION IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL PERSONS AT ALL AGE LEVELS AND ALL ECONOMIC
AND S~IAL LEVELS, AND

WHEREAS
PUBLIC LIBRARIES, SUPPORTED BY TAX FUNDS ARE "INSTITUTION.S OF EDUCATION FOR DEMOORATIC LIVOO", (LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS), AND EXIST TO PROVIDE INFORMATION
TO AU. PERSONS. THEY HAVE A SPECIAL OBLIGATICN TO THOSE WHO HAVE NO OTHER
ACCESS TO INFORMATION i.e. THE POOR, THE YOUNG, AND THE INSTITUTIONALIZED, AND

WHEREIBE INCREASED USE OF EXPENSIVE, EFFICIENT AUTOMATED BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA BASES, (MANY OF WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED WITH TAX FUNDS), HAS CAUSED SOME TAX-
SUPPORTED LIBRARIES TO CHARGE

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ALA Council
MINUfES
June 17-22,

FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION

EXHIBIT 12
1977 ALA Membership
Document #7

WHEREAS, information is essential for all persons at all age levels and all economic and social levels, and
WHEREAS, publicly supported libraries are "institutions of education for democratic living" (Library Bill of Rights), and exist to provide information to all
persons, and
WHEREAS, increased use of automated bibliographic data bases (many of which have been developed with tax funds) has caused some publicly supported libraries to
charge for those services, which practice may set precedent for further
fee setting, and
WHEREAS, the charging of fees for information deprives service to those who cannot afford the fees, and thus effectively discriminates against them, and
WHEREAS, ALA has urged the free flow of information and has spoken out clearly against all obstacles that stand in the way of an individual's access to ideas and information,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ALA affirm its belief in the concept of access to information,without charge to individuals, in public and other publicly
supported libraries, and be it further
RESOLVED, that the A L A develop and approve the following statement of policy: It shall be the policy of the American Library Association to assert that
the charging of fees and levies for information services, including those
services utilizing the latest information technology, is discriminatory
in publicly supported institutions providing library and information services.

It shall be the policy of the American Library Association to seek to make
it possible for library and information service agencies which receive their major support from public funds to provide service to all people without ad-ditional fees and to utilize the latest technological developments to insure the best possible access to information; and that
The Association will, through an active program of information, education, and the formulation of future policy and programming, actively promote its position on equal access to information.