

RESOLUTION ON THE NATIONAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Whereas, although the Clinton administration's statement in its NII policy statement calls for ~~equitable~~ and equitable access to information for all, it relies mainly on the private sector and slight America's already existing public information infrastructure -- its tens of thousands of publicly funded libraries, and

Whereas, libraries are an ideal and essential public sector institution for equal and equitable access to the electronic information highway, and in a crucial role,

Whereas, funding for libraries is being cut even though we are about to establish a new and costly National Information Infrastructure (NII), and

Whereas, in the present fiscal and political climate, access to the information highway will be afforded to Americans or to underfunded libraries,

Whereas this public policy does not serve the needs of librarians, libraries, and the right of access to information, and now therefore

Be it resolved, that the American Library Association energetically promotes grassroots mobilization of librarians, in local communities and those concerned with telecommunications, decision-makers to guarantee free access to the public information infrastructure -- libraries and

Be it further resolved, that the ALA encourage its affiliate organizations and divisions and libraries to use such occasions as National Library Week (April 17-23) to focus attention on and

Be it further resolved, that the ALA declare 1995 to be National Library Year, and encourage its divisions and affiliates to develop planning programs and activities for the annual ALA Conference.

Moved by

Robert B. Lippert, President

Seconded:

Thomas W. Casey

Policy Implications: Policy 1
Fiscal Implications:

William Howard

Supporting the
Resolutions Committee Stamp

Approved to COPEC 3/6/94

REVIEWED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH
GUIDELINES
by Council Resolutions Committee

JK