



Resolution for the Adoption of Sustainability as a Core Value of Librarianship

Whereas the Council of the American Library Association (ALA) adopted the **Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries**¹ at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference which stated that libraries are uniquely positioned and essential to build the capacity of the communities they serve to become sustainable, resilient and regenerative;

Whereas the Executive Board of ALA accepted the **final report of the Special Task Force on Sustainability (EBD # 5.4 --2017-2019)**² at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference in which the Triple Bottom Line framework of sustainability was adopted: "*To be truly sustainable, an organization or community must embody practices that are environmentally sound AND economically feasible AND socially equitable,*";

Whereas the first recommendation of the **final report of the Special Task Force on Sustainability** is to adopt sustainability as a core value of librarianship;

Whereas the results of a **2018 membership survey** indicated that two-thirds of ALA members currently feel ALA neither serves as a model nor provides leadership in the area of sustainability;

Whereas the **United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest report**,³ written and edited by 91 scientists from 40 countries who analyzed more than 6,000 scientific studies in October of 2018, finds that the immediate consequences of climate change are far more dire than originally predicted, calling for a transformation of the world economy at a speed and scale that has "no documented historic precedent" using the fundamental connections embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals;

Whereas the **Fourth National Climate Assessment**⁴, issued in November 2018, finds that societal efforts to respond to climate change have not expanded at the scale needed to avoid substantial damages to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades; and

Whereas **the association, library profession and libraries of all types - academic, public, school and special - have the stature, energy, determination and will** to build the coalitions, convene the conversations and act as the catalysts the world needs, not only today, but to inspire future generations, to take control of their future by working together to find the necessary adaptations and solutions to thrive as communities, now, therefore, be it

¹ <https://bit.ly/1SpItcY>

² <https://bit.ly/2lfAXdl>

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

⁴ <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>



Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. **Shall define sustainability using the “triple bottom line” conceptual framework:**
“To be truly sustainable, an organization or community must embody practices that are environmentally sound AND economically feasible AND socially equitable.”
2. Adopt “**Sustainability**,” as defined above, as a core value of librarianship.
3. Evolve **accreditation standards** to ensure the topic of sustainability is an inherent element in library school curriculum.
4. Provide ALA members with the necessary **knowledge and resources** to inspire, cultivate and encourage active leadership in the application of the triple bottom line framework to guide decisions for the future of our society.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Sunday, January 27, 2019, in Seattle, WA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary W. Ghikas".

Mary W. Ghikas, Executive Director
and Secretary of the ALA Council