

2012-2013 ALA CD#37 (rev. 6/30/13)

2013 ALA Annual Conference

This resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on June 30, 2013

RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING ALA'S COMMITMENT TO BASIC LITERACY

Whereas the American Library Association's (ALA) mission is to “provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all” (ALA Policy A. 1.2);

Whereas the ALA Policy Manual recognizes that Literacy is a core service and responsibility of all libraries, “The American Library Association reaffirms and supports the principle that lifelong literacy is a basic right for all individuals in our society and is essential to the welfare of the nation” (ALA Policy B 8.1.2);

Whereas ALA “advocates the achievement of national literacy through educational activities utilizing the historical and cultural experiences of libraries and librarians” (ALA Policy B 8.1.2);

Whereas ALA “confirms that libraries of all types, as appropriate to their mission, have the responsibility to make literacy a high priority in planning and budgeting for library services” (ALA Policy B 8.1.2);

Whereas ALA believes “as pioneer and equal partners in the national literacy movement, libraries will continue to take a strong leadership role and must join with other literacy providers to urge local, state, federal, and private agencies to promote active development of literacy on a policy level and to support funding of the literacy services in libraries” (ALA Policy B 8.1.2);

Whereas the ALA 2015 Strategic Plan recognizes Literacy as a Key Action Area as one of seven guiding principles for investment of energies and resources (ALA 2015 Strategic Plan);

Whereas basic literacy is defined as “the ability to use ‘printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one’s goals and to develop one’s knowledge and potential’” (Adopted by the Committee on Literacy June 24, 2005 from the United States Department of Education, 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy);

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Whereas ALA recognizes many forms of literacies, the core value of basic literacy must be reaffirmed as foundational for people of all ages and is the building block for developing other literacies;

Whereas ALA supports the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services' initiatives such as the *American Dream Starts @ your library*, and

Whereas ALA recognizes the important work, resource lists and toolkits supporting a professional commitment to literacy, such as *Literacy for All: Adult Literacy @ your library*: now, therefore, be it

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

1. reaffirms and supports the principle that lifelong literacy is a basic right for all individuals in our society and is essential to the welfare of the nation;
2. reaffirms the core value of basic literacy as foundational for people of all ages and is the building block for developing other literacies;
3. encourages appropriate ALA units and Divisions to actively participate in the Association's Literacy Assembly; and
4. urges appropriate ALA units and libraries of all types to make basic literacy a high priority by incorporating literacy initiatives into programs and services for all users.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Sunday, June 30, 2013
in Chicago, Illinois



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council