

This resolution was originally adopted by the ALA Membership (6/29/13) and the ALA Council (6/30/13). On 7/1/13, Council rescinded its adoption and referred this resolution to the ALA Committee on Legislation (COL) and the Intellectual Committee (IFC).

On 7/2/13, the COL and IFC moved and Council voted to substitute and adopt a joint Resolution on the Need for Reforms for the Intelligence Community to Support, Privacy, Open Government, Government Transparency, and Accountability (CD#20.4 and CD#19.2), as amended. The joint resolution replaced the below resolution and two other whistleblower resolutions: 2013 MW CD#36, Resolution Reaffirming ALA Support for Whistleblowers, and 2013 AC CD#38, Resolution in Support of Whistleblower Bradley Manning.

### **Resolution in Support of Whistleblower Edward Snowden**

Whereas, since 1939 the American Library Association (ALA) has affirmed the right to privacy in its Code of Ethics, which currently states, “We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted”;

Whereas in “Principles for the Networked World” in 2002 ALA included among the “principles of privacy” the fact that “privacy is a right of all people and must be protected in the networked world” and the recognition that “the rights of anonymity and privacy while people retrieve and communicate information must be protected as an essential element of intellectual freedom”;

Whereas in 2002 in “Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights” ALA recognized that “privacy is essential to the exercise of free speech, free thought, and free association”;

Whereas in 2003 in its “Resolution on the USA Patriot Act and Related Measures that Infringe on the Rights of Library Users” ALA criticized the “USA PATRIOT Act and other recently enacted laws, regulations, and guidelines” on the grounds that they “increase the likelihood that the activities of library users, including their use of computers to browse the Web or access e-mail, may be under government surveillance without their knowledge or consent” (CD#20.1, 2003);

Whereas in 2004 ALA passed a “Resolution on Securing Government Accountability through Whistleblower Protection” affirming its “support for accountable government and the role of whistleblowers in reporting abuse, fraud, and waste in governmental activities” (CD#20.7, 2004);

Whereas in 2005 in its “Resolution on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology and Privacy Principles” ALA insisted that “user privacy and confidentiality has long been an integral part of the mission of libraries” (CD#19.1, 2005);

Whereas in 2008 ALA passed a “Resolution Commending the FBI Whistleblower Who Exposed Abuses on the Use of Exigent National Security Letters” which called on Congress to “protect the rights of whistleblowers against retaliation”(CD#20.5, 2008);

## Resolution in support of whistleblower Edward Snowden/2

Whereas since 2010 ALA has sponsored “Choose Privacy Week,” an initiative “that invites library users into a national conversation about privacy rights in a digital age” and a campaign that “gives libraries the tools they need to educate and engage users, and gives citizens the resources to think critically and make more informed choices about their privacy;

Whereas in 2011 ALA passed a “Resolution on Access to and Classification of Government Information,” which urged “Congress to pass legislation that expands protections for whistleblowers in the Federal government, such as the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2010” (CD#19.1, 2011);

Whereas in 2011 ALA noted that “current and former government officials estimate that 50% to 90% of classified information is either overclassified or should not have been classified at all, making the administration of classified information ineffective” (CD#19.1, 2011);

Whereas in 2011 ALA urged “the U.S. President, Congress, the federal courts, and executive and legislative agencies to defend the inalienable right of the press and citizens to disseminate information to the public about national security issues and to refrain from initiatives that impair these rights (CD#19.1, 2011);

Whereas Edward Snowden, a technical specialist for contractors employed by the National Security Agency, has admitted to providing classified information to reporters for *The Guardian* and *The Washington Post* newspapers;

Whereas this information revealed that, under a FISA court order issued in April 2013, the National Security Agency is collecting the telephone records of millions of U.S. customers of Verizon;

Whereas this information further revealed that since 2007 under its PRISM program the NSA has been collecting huge quantities of data on internet usage, including internet search histories, email, video and voice chat, videos, photos, voice-over-IP chats, file transfers, and social networking details, from internet service providers in the United States;

Whereas Edward Snowden has explained that his “sole motive” in revealing this information was “to inform the public as to that which was done in their name and that which is done against them”; and

Whereas Edward Snowden is now facing extradition and prosecution for releasing this information: now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the American Library Association (ALA):

1. recognizes Edward Snowden as a whistleblower who, in releasing information that documents government attacks on privacy, free speech, and freedom of association, has performed a valuable service in launching a national dialogue about transparency, domestic surveillance, and overclassification.

Mover: Jim Kuhn, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Seconder: Mike Marlin, ALA Councilor-at-Large

# Policy Citations

1939 Code of Ethics for Librarians

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=History1&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=8875>

2008 Amended Code of Ethics

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/proethics/codeofethics/Code%20of%20Ethics%20of%20the%20American%20Library%20Association.pdf>

2002 "Principles for the Networked World"

<http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/oitp/publications/issuebriefs/principles/principles.pdf>

2002 "Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights"

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=interpretations&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=132904>

CD # 20.1, 2003

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=ifresolutions&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=11891>

CD#20.7, 2004

<http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/wo/reference/colresolutions/PDFs/000002-CD20.7.pdf>

CD#19.1, 2005

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=ifresolutions&Template=/Contentmanagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=85331>

CD#20.5, 2008

<http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/wo/reference/colresolutions/PDFs/COL%20Resolution%20on%20Ba.pdf>

Choose Privacy Week: <http://chooseprivacyweek.org/>

# RESOLUTION E-FORM

## Resolution in Support of Whistleblower Edward Snowden

Submitted on Tue, 06/25/2013 - 13:47 PM

Subject: Form submission from: ALA Resolution E-Form

Date: 06/25/2013

Resolution author(s): Members of SRRT

E-mail address: [JKuhn@FOLGER.edu](mailto:JKuhn@FOLGER.edu)

1. Title of Resolution: Resolution in support of whistleblower Edward Snowden 2. ALA Units and/or Committees Consulted (if any): We have contacted SRRT, PLG, IFC, and IFRT.

3. Endorsements by ALA Units and/or Committees (if any): None at this time.

4. Fiscal implications: None. This will only require materials for sending out the resolutions to designated recipients.

5. List all parties to whom resolution should be sent: Edward Snowden (if no other address available, could be sent c/o Glenn Greenwald, The Guardian); Bradley Manning Support Network; President Barack Obama; Attorney General Eric Holder; all members of Congress; the library press; The New York Times; The Washington Post; The Guardian 6. Impact on ALA Policies and Positions: This resolution applies existing ALA policies and precedents in support of privacy and intellectual freedom, in opposition to government surveillance of library users, and in defense of whistleblowers.

6a) ALA general policy or viewpoint: This resolution implicitly reaffirms existing ALA policies and precedents in support of privacy and intellectual freedom, in opposition to government surveillance of library users, and in defense of whistleblowers.

6b) Change in existing policy: NA

6c) New policy: NA

6d) Policy conflicts: NA

7. Initiating Committee or Unit (if any): SRRT 8. Pertinent Background Information: Policy Citations

1939 Code of Ethics for Librarians

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=History1&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=8875>

2008 Amended Code of Ethics

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/proethics/codeofethics/Code%20of%20Ethics%20of%20the%20American%20Library%20Association.pdf>

2002 "Principles for the Networked World"

<http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/oitp/publications/issuebriefs/principles/principles.pdf>

2002 "Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights"

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=interpretations&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=132904>

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CD#19.1, 2005

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=ifresolutions&Template=/Contentmanagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=85331>

CD#20.5, 2008

<http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/wo/reference/colresolutions/PDFs/COL%20Resolution%20on%20Ba.pdf>

Choose Privacy Week: <http://chooseprivacyweek.org/>

9. Mover's Name: Jim Kuhn

9a) Mover's Local Telephone Number: Cell#: 301-351-0091

10 Seconder's Name: Mike Marlin

10a) Seconder's Local Telephone Number: Cell#: 916-243-9778

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/node/407/submission/46>