

The ALA Council *adopted* this resolution on Wednesday, June 29, 2005

**RESOLUTION ON DISINFORMATION, MEDIA MANIPULATION &
THE DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

- Whereas, American Library Association recognizes the contribution librarianship can make in giving support for efforts to help inform and educate the people of the United States on critical problems facing society (Policy, 1.1); and
- Whereas, The mission of ALA 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 (Policy 1.2); and
- Whereas, ALA has as one of its officially stated goals that government information be widely and easily available (Policy 1.3); and
- Whereas, ALA opposes any use of governmental power to suppress the free and open exchange of knowledge and information (Policy 52.4.1); and
- Whereas, Inaccurate information, distortions of truth, excessive limitations on access to information and the removal or destruction of information in the public domain are anathema to the ethos of librarianship and to the functioning of a healthy democracy; and
- Whereas, Evidence exists revealing that some U.S. government officials and agencies use disinformation in pursuit of political and economic power, as well as war, thwarting the development of an informed citizenry and constituting a “critical problem facing society”; and
- Whereas, The list of documented instances of government use of disinformation continues to grow, and includes:
- the distribution to media outlets of government produced “video news releases” under the guise of independent journalism;
 - the use of commentators paid by government agencies to express views favorable to government policies in clear violation of Federal Communications Commission regulations;
 - the censorship of scientific studies warning of the true threat of global warming;
 - the fabrication and deliberate distortion of information used to justify the U.S. invasion of Iraq;
 - the removal of public information from U.S. depository libraries; and
 - heightened assaults on constitutional rights under the guise of “national security”;
- now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the American Library Association goes on record as being opposed to the use by government of disinformation, media manipulation, the destruction and excision of public information, and other such tactics; and, be it further
- Resolved, That ALA encourages its members to help raise public consciousness regarding the many ways in which disinformation and media manipulation are being used to mislead public opinion in all spheres of life, and further encourages librarians to facilitate this awareness with collection development, library programming and public outreach that draws the public’s attention to those alternative sources of information dedicated to countering and revealing the disinformation often purveyed by the mainstream media; and, be it further

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Resolved, That this resolution be shared broadly with members of ALA, the press, the public and government officials.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Wednesday, June 29, 2005
In Chicago, Illinois

Supporting Documentation:

ALA policy references:

- 1.1 Mission, Priority Areas, Goals – Introduction
- 1.2 Mission
- 1.3 Priority Areas and Goals
- 52.4.1 *The Rights of Library Users and the USA PATRIOT Act*

Selected Bibliography on Disinformation

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- 1971 *Pentagon Papers*, by Neil Sheehan et al. New York: New York Times
- 1975 *Inside the Company: CIA Diary*, by Philip Agee. London: Allen Lane
- 1978 *Dirty Work: the CIA in western Europe*, by Philip Agee, & Louis Wolf. New York: Dorset Press
- 1982 *The Real Terror Network: terrorism in fact and propaganda*, by Edward S. Herman. Boston: South End Press
- 1985 *Storm Over Chile*, by Samuel Chavkin. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company
- 1988 *Agents of Repression: the FBI's secret wars against the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement*, by Ward Churchill and Jim Vander Wall. Boston: South End Press
- 1989 *The "Terrorism" Industry: the experts and institutions that shape our view of terror*, by Edward S. Herman and Gerry O'Sullivan. New York: Pantheon.
- 1990 *COINTELPRO Papers: documents from the FBI's secret war against dissent in the United States*, by Ward Churchill and Jim Vander Wall. Boston: South End Press
- 1997 *Warriors of Disinformation*, by Alvin Snyder
- 1999 *Cultural Cold War: the CIA and the world of arts and letters*, by Frances Stonor Saunders. New York: The New Press
- 1999 *Psywar on Cuba: the declassified history of U.S. anti-Castro propaganda*, edited by Jon Ellison, Melbourne: Ocean Press.
- 2002 *Body of Secrets: anatomy of the ultra-secret National Security Agency: from the Cold War through the dawn of a new century*, by James Bamford. New York: Anchor Books
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- 2003 *Abuse Your Illusions: the disinformation guide to media mirages and establishment lies*, edited by Russ Kick.
- 2004 *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, by John Perkins. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler.
- 2004 *Inside the Pentagon Papers*, by John Prados and Margaret Pratt Porter.
- 2005 *The Chavez Code: deciphering the intervention of the United States in Venezuela*, by Eva Golinger. Editorial de Ciencias Sociales.

