RESOLUTION ON CONTINUING EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Personnel resources is one of the Association's highest priorities; and

WHEREAS, Association policy (Policy Manual 1.1) directs that "Substantially increased amounts of the Association's budget shall be directed toward implementation of these priorities; and

WHEREAS, The Goal and Objective Statement of ALA assures "Development and support of library personnel and trustees through affirmative action, education, personal welfare, and training"; and

WHEREAS, The Council adopted in June 1979 a policy statement reaffirming the Association's responsibility for continuing education and establishing an aim to develop a planned program for continuing education; and

WHEREAS, There is increasing recognition among the membership of the need for the Association to implement these priorities and aims with adequate financial and personnel resources; and

WHEREAS, In token of this recognition, an ALA Continuing Education forum, representative of the various ALA units, has met and has developed significant policy and implementation recommendations; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That ALA begin immediately to design, develop, communicate, implement, and continuously evaluate a national comprehensive long-range plan for continuing education to improve the quality of library service; such action to include the following:

1. Council asks COO, COPES, SCOLE, OLPR Advisory Committees, and appropriate staff to recommend to Council by the 1980 Annual Conference governance and structure arrangements; and

2. Council asks the Executive Board to start immediate planning for implementation by fiscal 1981 including appropriate support from ALA funds.

Adopted by
ALA COUNCIL
January 24, 1980
ALA accepts responsibility for the promotion of continuing education for persons involved with library service. Continuing education in this context is a lifelong learning process which builds on and modifies previously acquired knowledge, skills, and attitudes of the individual. The aim of the Association in this area is to develop a planned program for ensuring that the knowledge, skills and attitudes of persons involved with library service are adequate to meet the challenges of social change, to take advantage of new technology and improved techniques, to provide leadership for the constant improvement of library theory and practice and to fulfill individual aspirations for growth.

ALA will set standards for continuing education programs for librarianship and will provide for periodic review and updating of these standards.

ALA will work through its chapters to encourage funding for continuing library education at state and local levels. ALA will also press, as part of its legislative program, for federal funds that will include continuing education scholarships and for funds for development of model curricula.

ALA will cooperate and coordinate its efforts with other providers of continuing education.

There will be a strong relationship between ALA's continuing education program and the Association's policies. As new policies are adopted by the Association their implication for the continuing education program will be reviewed.

1. "Persons involved in library service" is used here to include not only paid library personnel at all levels of staff rank or academic qualifications but also other persons such as trustees and others who may affect the quality of library service.