

**Resolution Affirming the Role of Libraries in Providing E-Government and  
Emergency Services**

**WHEREAS**, the E-Government Act of 2002 mandates that federal agencies cut back certain services, including many services to the public, and government agencies at all levels are increasingly providing government services only in digital form; and

**WHEREAS**, libraries have demonstrated their effectiveness in delivering e-government services, including emergency response/recovery services provided during natural disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and government agencies increasingly refer the public to libraries for government services; and

**WHEREAS**, when government agencies shift responsibilities to local organizations including libraries, they assume that the necessary high bandwidth connectivity, staff training, financial resources, and other support mechanisms are in place for effective delivery of e-government and emergency response/recovery services; and

**WHEREAS**, libraries are eager to work closely with government agencies to serve their local communities effectively; and

**WHEREAS**, the public has long relied on libraries for government information services and public access computing; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the American Library Association urge governments at all levels to acknowledge and support the essential role local libraries play in providing e-government and emergency response/recovery services, as well as include libraries in relevant legislative or other policy actions; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the American Library Association encourage continued research documenting library needs and capacity to provide effective e-government and emergency response/recovery services, and help libraries develop best practices and train staff to deliver these essential services.

Initiated by: COL

ALA Policy: #50.15 Principles of the Network World

#51.(1) Federal Legislative Policy

#53.1.19 Access to electronic information, services, and networks

Adopted by the American Library Association Council

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Seattle, Washington