

Delaware Library Association
Resolution Affirming Rights of Delaware Library Users

WHEREAS, the Delaware Library Association provides leadership in the protection of intellectual freedom, the free flow of information, and the privacy of library users; and

WHEREAS, the privacy of public library users and confidentiality of public library records are protected in Delaware law; and

WHEREAS, the USA PATRIOT Act, Homeland Security Act, and related regulations allow records of library users to be under surveillance without their knowledge or consent; and

WHEREAS, the new federal laws and policies disproportionately affect individuals who rely on public access to materials and computers in libraries;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware Library Association opposes use of government power to suppress the free and open exchange of ideas and information; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Delaware Library Association encourages librarians and library advocates to inform library staff, library users, and their communities about the federal legislation and regulations that impinge on user confidentiality and access to information; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Delaware Library Association condemns legislation or government action that threatens the constitutional rights and privacy rights of library users; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Delaware Library Association urges Congress to repeal sections of the USA PATRIOT Act and Homeland Security Act which violate fundamental rights and liberties guaranteed in the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights and laws of the state of Delaware; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Delaware Library Association, while opposing terrorism, affirms and upholds the efforts of librarians and library advocates to defend and support free and open access to information and privacy of library users; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution and the *Library Bill of Rights* be sent to the Governor of Delaware, to the Attorney General of Delaware, to Members of both Houses of the Delaware General Assembly, to Senators Biden and Carper, to Congressman Castle, to the Delaware library community, and to others as appropriate.

Adopted by
Delaware Library Association, Executive Board
June 11, 2003