



Resolution Celebrating the U.S. Ratification and Passage of the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act

Whereas ALA promotes equal access to information for all people;

Whereas the right to read is a fundamental human right and central to a free society;

Whereas the vast majority of published works are not available in formats that are accessible to people with print disabilities;

Whereas the circulation of accessible copies needs to be expanded around the world;

Whereas ALA advocated for an international treaty that was signed on June 27, 2013 at the World Intellectual Property Organization for an exception to copyright for people with print disabilities;

Whereas ALA worked with library associations, the publishing industry, the National Federation of the Blind, and American Council for the Blind to develop legislative language agreeable to all parties;

Whereas the international treaty and its implementing legislation includes the making of digital copies, expanding access and distribution:

Whereas libraries can play a greater role in improving the lives of people with disabilities because they are identified as "authorized entities" who can make accessible copies as an exception to copyright law;

Whereas the definition of the "print disabled" in the treaty and implementing legislation includes people with physical disabilities that prevent them from using a print book, people with dyslexia and people with learning disabilities, clarifying the beneficiary pool;

Whereas people with print disabilities who speak a language other than English will have access to accessible copies in foreign languages;

Whereas the United States can share accessible copies to eligible contracting parties around the world, including developing countries;

Whereas the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act was passed unanimously in Congress and was signed by the President; now, therefore be it,



Resolved, that the American Library Association

1. celebrates the passage of the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act of 2018.
2. urges all libraries and their staff serving persons with print disabilities to avail themselves of appropriate resources in order to implement provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, January 29, 2019, in Seattle, WA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary W. Ghikas".

Mary W. Ghikas, Executive Director
and Secretary of the ALA Council