



# AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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## RESOLUTION ON THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND ALA CONFERENCE SITES

WHEREAS, The American Library Association supports equal opportunity for all persons, and committed itself to support of the Equal Rights Amendment in July, 1974 (Legislation Item 105.3); and

WHEREAS, The Equal Rights Amendment provides protection of equal rights for all persons regardless of sex; and

WHEREAS, Time for ratification of the Amendment is growing short; and

WHEREAS, Other influential organizations have passed resolutions involving economic sanctions against states withholding ratification; and

WHEREAS, It is acknowledged that the ALA is committed to future conference sites through 1981, which postdates the allotted time for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That as ALA continues to negotiate for conference and midwinter sites, the Association add its voice and effort to the passage of the Amendment by committing future conferences only to states that have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment.



ADOPTED by the Council  
of the American Library Association  
June 20, 1977  
Transmitted by

*Robert Wedgeworth*  
Robert Wedgeworth  
Secretary and Executive Director

Board. The Resolution was ADOPTED on motion by Alphonse Trezza, seconded by Jane Anne Hannigan after discussion indicated it should be the individual libraries' decision to seek depository status if they are willing to abide by the open access requirement with which the resolution is concerned.

Mr. Holly continued with submission of the Resolution on the Florence Agreement Protocol, attached as Exhibit 9. He stated that the intent of the Resolution is to facilitate the free flow of material among countries throughout the world and supports the current proposal that the Florence Agreement be amended to include non-print materials of educational, cultural and scientific character. The Resolution was referred to the Committee on Legislation by the Committee on International Relations, and the two committees recommend adoption by Council. Council VOTED APPROVAL on motion by E. J. Josey, seconded by Jane Anne Hannigan.

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INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO RECODIFY ALA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. Alice Ihrig, chair, submitted a 49 page preliminary document (on file at Headquarters) to illustrate the methodology the Council committee has employed in developing recommendations for revising the policies manual. The covering Memo is attached as Exhibit 10. The Committee is hopeful that it can bring in a report for action at the 1978 Midwinter Meeting but before going further wanted Council's reactions and/or approval of the Committee's directions. On motion by Elizabeth Hoffman, seconded by Marilyn L. Miller, it was

VOTED, That the Ad Hoc Committee to Recodify ALA Policies and Procedures Manual be authorized to continue its work as shown by example in CD #41, including drafting of suggested rewordings.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND ALA CONFERENCE SITES - Exhibit 11. Suzanne LeBarron presented the Resolution and pointed out that the effective date is 1981 rather than 1982, and that the intent of the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship is to include Midwinter as well as Annual Conferences sites. Councilors and ALA members from some of the states which would be affected by a decision not to hold ALA conferences in states which have not ratified the ERA urged adoption as a possible means of getting ratification and to provide them with backing in their own efforts toward ratification. While Council recognized that 1981 is beyond the period when ERA's time allocation expires for ratification, it did not wish to weaken the policy by approving Edward Howard's motion, seconded by Donald Trottier to amend the Resolution by adding "That the Resolution becomes null and void when ERA becomes Federal Law or the ratification attempt has failed," and after lengthy discussion the motion was DEFEATED. Sherrie Bergman in speaking against the amendment pointed out that in the future the Association can rescind the policy if circumstances make such action desirable. The Executive Director interpreted the resolution to mean that he would communicate with the legislative bodies of the states having possibilities for future meetings (Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Nevada, Georgia, Missouri) to inform them staff is not empowered to negotiate for future conferences because those states have not ratified the ERA;



Charles Bunge suggested that councilors and chapters in those states might also communicate with the legislatures. While aware of the fiscal implications pointed out by Treasurer Chait, Richard Boss stated, "...Our image as a profession which has had a large number of women in it who have not exercised the positions of responsibility and leadership until just recently that they should make me think this ought to be one of the very first Associations to take a strong position." Returning to the original motion to adopt the Resolution on ERA and ALA Meeting Sites, the Resolution was ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE. Richard Darling, seconded by Jean-Anne South, moved adoption of the resolution that "...be it resolved that all ALA Annual program, membership and Council meetings after 1977 be scheduled so as to avoid systematic conflict with the religious convictions of Sabbath-observing members as defined in this resolution." With Miss South's second, he immediately moved that the Resolution be referred to the Executive Board and that it be considered when future conference formats are planned. Gerald Shields pointed out that an individual's commitment to his or her religious beliefs is a personal one... which should not become a device for division amongst a group as diverse as ALA. The motion to defer was DEFEATED, whereupon the original motion to adopt the Resolution was put to the vote and was also DEFEATED.

RESOLUTION ON EQUAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION - Exhibits 12 and 12(a), Gerald Shields, in moving Council adoption of the Resolution on Equal Access to Information (Exhibit 12(a)), stated that "this is a statement which is intended to guide the Association as it develops necessary policies and position statements of ethics as the whole concept of the use of technology in the distribution of information becomes more and more apparent...in the long-range approach to the problems that technology brings to us in terms of providing the kind of services that we have said we are aspiring to in our profession." The majority of those Councilors speaking to the motion supported the principles involved; Robert Runyon, however referred to the statements made by President Jones (Exhibit 6, page 9-14) and because of the study of use of fee charges generated at the Midwinter Meeting, suggested the resolution to be premature. Attention was called to the Resolution on Free Access to Information directed to the Membership and yet to be discussed and that the Resolution under discussion attempts to implement a policy yet to be acted on by Membership which would give it more force. Whereupon, on motion by Irene Hoadley, seconded by Alphonse F. Trezza, action was postponed to the final Council Meeting awaiting the Membership's directions.

At the Third Council Meeting, after the Membership had adopted Membership Document 7 (Exhibit 12) Ruth Tighe moved, Thomas Galvin seconded, and Council

VOTED, That Council substitute for Council Document 48 (Exhibit 12(a)), Membership Document 7 (Exhibit 12) which was voted by Membership this morning.

With an editorial change suggested by Richard Darling, accepted by Council, to strike the word "Council" from the last Resolved paragraph inasmuch as it would be a Council direction upon adoption, it was