

1992-93 MD# 8

**RESOLUTION TO MEMBERSHIP****Library of Congress**

**Whereas**, the effectiveness of the Library of Congress as a center for scholarly research has been diminished by the recent restrictions on stack access, closing of the Manuscript Reading Room on Saturdays, and reduced hours for use of all research facilities;

**Whereas**, the Library of Congress has served as the storehouse for over a century of this country's knowledge and contains unique items that cannot be found elsewhere;

**Whereas**, the Librarian of Congress made a unilateral decision to close the stacks following unfavorable publicity in the press and refused to consider implementing an improved security system that might protect collections from theft and damage but still allow screened researchers access to their sources;

**Whereas**, there is conclusive evidence that the Library of Congress failed during the last ten years to enforce even rudimentary security measures;

**Whereas**, there has been no evidence in reported thefts implicating any researcher engaged in a bona fide scholarly historical research project;

**Whereas**, stack access make it possible for researchers to pursue their work rigorously and efficiently and at a level of detail that is not easily achieved through standard finding aids;

**Whereas**, members of the Library of Congress staff have been restricted from the stacks, an act which inhibits staff members' professional development and serious morale problems throughout the Library of Congress;

**Whereas**, Saturday closings of the Manuscript Reading Room place a hardship on both out-of-town scholars and Washington residents, for whom Saturdays are often their only opportunity to use the manuscript collection;

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that the American Library Association urges the Librarian of Congress to recognize that closed stacks, Saturday closings of the Manuscript Reading Room, and reduced hours for use of other research rooms severely imperil the research of some scholars and hinders the day-to-day work of

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48

the Library of Congress staff, and urge the Librarian of Congress to reopen the Manuscript Reading Room on Saturday, to reopen the Library on Tuesday and Friday evenings, and to seek a middle ground on access to the stacks that would reflect the needs of security concerns, scholars, and Library of Congress staff.

PASSED BY THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE  
JUNE 26, 1993

Moved *E. Harger* ELAINE HARGER  
Seconded *J. Scott* J. Scott

**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Annual Conference**  
**June 1993**

**ALA MEMBERSHIP MEETING II**  
**Wednesday, June 30, 1993, 9 a.m.-12 Noon**  
**New Orleans Convention Center, Ballroom I**

**INTRODUCTIONS.** President-Elect Hardy R. Franklin reintroduced President Marilyn L. Miller, Parliamentarian Edwin C. Bliss, Executive Director Peggy Sullivan, and ALA staff members assisting with these meetings.

**AGENDA, MD#2, Exhibit 44.** ALA members Beverly Lynch and Beverly Papai moved that the agenda be reordered in the following manner: (1) Memorials and Tributes; (2) Reports: President, Treasurer and Self-Study; and (3) Unfinished Business. The motion was **DEFEATED**.

By **CONSENT**, the original agenda was adopted.

**MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTE RESOLUTIONS, Exhibit 27.** The following Memorials were adopted:

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|--------|----------------------------|
| (M-11) | William Pène duBois        |
| (M-12) | Claire Huchet Bishop       |
| (M-13) | Sandra Pelos & Tom Ballard |
| (M-14) | Bruni Vergés               |
| (M-15) | Charles Mikolaycak         |
| (M-16) | Maureen Hayes              |
| (M-17) | Frances Anna Sullivan      |
| (M-18) | Elizabeth A. Widenmann     |

Also noted was the recent death of Kenneth E. Vance, Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan School of Information and Library Studies, Ann Arbor.

The following tributes were adopted:

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|-------|---|
| (T-3) | Warren Tsuneishi  |
| (T-4) | Hannah V. McCauley  |
| (T-5) | 100th Year Anniversary of the Drexel University<br>College of Information Studies |
| (T-6) | Dorothy L. Glasby   |

**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
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**RESOLUTION ON THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, MD#8, Exhibit 48.** ALA members Elaine Harger and Stephen Stillwell moved that the American Library Association urges the Librarian of Congress to recognize that closed stacks, Saturday closings of the Manuscript Reading Room, and reduced hours for use of other research rooms severely imperil the research of some scholars and hinder the day-to-day work of the Library of Congress staff; and urge the Librarian of Congress to reopen the Manuscript Reading Room on Saturday, to reopen the Library on Tuesday and Friday evenings, and to seek a middle ground on access to the stacks that would reflect the needs of security concerns, scholars, and Library of Congress staff.

After a brief discussion, ALA members Sandra Stephan and Beverly Papai moved and Membership

**VOTED,** To table the Resolution on the Library of Congress, MD#8.

**RESOLUTION ON IFLA CONFERENCE IN HAVANA, CUBA, MD#9 Exhibit 49, AND RESOLUTION ON UNITED STATES MILITARY SURVEILLANCE INFORMATION, MD# 15, Exhibit 50.** These resolutions were withdrawn from the agenda.

**RESOLUTION ON DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP, MD#10, Exhibit 51.** ALA members Stephen Stillwell and Thomas L. Wilding moved the members of ALA urge that a committee be established to review all ALA Headquarters personnel policies and employee benefits to ensure that no discrimination exists and that domestic partnership is recognized; and, that any necessary arrangements with insurers and others to bring this into effect be implemented by January 1, 1994.

ALA members Betty J. Blackman and Nancy M. Bolt moved and Membership then

**VOTED,** That since the Personnel Subcommittee of the Executive Board is charged with reviewing and recommending to the Executive Board personnel policies and practices for the ALA staff, and it has reviewed the issues of domestic partnership, the Executive Director will report to the ALA membership on the arrangements that have been investigated and implemented on these issues by January 1, 1994.