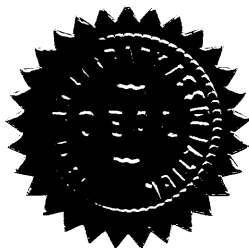


ALA American Library Association

Resolution on the ALA and the Gates Library Foundations

RESOLVED. *That the ALA Council and membership recognize and celebrate Bill and Melinda Gates for establishing the Gates Library Foundation and specifically targeting our neediest communities for this visionary endeavor.*



*Adopted by the
Council of the American Library Association
July 2, 1997*

Elizabeth Martinez
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*Secretary of the ALA Council
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RESOLUTION ON THE OUTSOURCING OF COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT, CD#53, Exhibit 56. Councilor Mark Rosenzweig and seconder moved and Council **DEFEATED** a motion to move CD#53, Resolution on the Outsourcing of Collection Development, to follow CD#52, Resolution on ALA and the Gates Library Foundation, on the agenda.

RESOLUTION ON ALA AND THE GATES LIBRARY FOUNDATION, CD#52, Exhibit 57. Councilor Mark Rosenzweig and seconder moved the adoption of the Resolution on ALA and the Gates Library Foundations, which read: "That the ALA Council commends Bill and Melinda Gates for establishing the Gates Library Foundation (GLF) and specifically targeting the poorest communities for library support; and, that private and corporate endowments, if accepted, should explicitly recognize the professional responsibility of librarians and trustees to decide the direction of library planning and development and the allocation of resources; and, that the GLF be asked to include on their board of directors a significant number of prominent librarians, including the ALA executive director, representing the range of views of library priorities and the place of electronic services, in recognition that librarians involved in their project at the local level must be the ultimate arbiters of professional issues; and, that ALA Council recognizes that ALA's gratefulness to the GLF and similar enterprises should not imply that public libraries can be revitalized and sustained by principal reliance on private largesse, and that we will redouble our efforts for public support for libraries through changes in government policy at all levels."

In speaking to the motion, Rosenzweig said he was shocked to see a banner upon entering the conference which linked *ALA Goal 2000* directly with the Gates Library Foundation in an official conference declaration. "They say you shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth, but we also should remember the story of the Trojan horse," he said. Rosenzweig stated that he felt the Gates Library Foundation's interest in libraries was not entirely philanthropic and was not necessarily consonant with the library profession's priorities. It was Rosenzweig's opinion that Gates has "bought up, in essence, a sector of the public libraries" in order to use them as showcases for his own product line and services. The motives and actions of the Gates Library Foundation should be looked at very carefully, Councilor Kent urged. Councilor Robert Franklin called Gates' gift a "down payment on the purchase of public libraries."

Many other councilors spoke out in praise of the Gates Library Foundation's gift. PLA Councilor JoAnn Pinder expressed the strong opposition of PLA and the other divisions to Rosenzweig's statements, saying, "Libraries have been accepting donations for years. [Librarians] are intelligent enough to know when and where and with what strings to accept those donations."

Councilor Kent Oliver and seconder moved and Council

VOTED, To substitute CD#52 with the following language: "That the ALA Council and membership recognize and celebrate Bill and Melinda Gates for establishing the Gates Library Foundation and specifically targeting our neediest communities for this visionary endeavor."

Councilor Linda Mielke said that all libraries accepting these kinds of gifts have to be advised that librarians do so in conformity with the policies and principles of sound librarianship. She pointed out that librarians should "not turn over discretion [or turn] over professional issues, which they should be making locally, to private interests and corporate interests who have different agendas than the agendas of public service and the traditional agendas of the public libraries."

RESOLUTION ON THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION IN ALA GOVERNANCE, CD#49A, Exhibit 58. Councilor Mary Jane Anderson and Patricia M. Wong moved the adoption of CD#49A, Resolution on Encouragement of Membership Participation in ALA Governance, which read: "That an ALA member subscription list be developed and mounted by ALA for the purposes of: 1) making information about ALA issues