

Resolution on Subject Heading Revisions Related to the "Poor People's" Policy

WHEREAS the American Library Association in 1990 adopted a "Poor People's Services Policy" (#61) that promotes, in part, "the ready accessibility of print and nonprint materials that honestly address the issues of poverty and homelessness, that deal with poor people in a respectful way, and that are of practical use to low-income patrons"; and

WHEREAS that same policy encourages activities and programs "likely to reduce, if not eliminate, poverty itself"; and

WHEREAS Library of Congress subject headings can importantly affect access to vital library resources on hunger, homelessness, and poverty, as well as shaping library users' attitudes toward those topics; and

WHEREAS LC headings currently impede or distort access too much relevant material because of antiquated or insensitive language, coupled with a failure to recognize a host of significant subjects actually represented in library collections;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ALA Council urges the Library of Congress to:

- a) replace PUBLICWELFARE and PUBLIC WELFARE ADMINISTRATION with the more familiar forms WELFARE and WELFARE ADMINISTRATION;
- b) humanize the current heading, POOR, by transforming it into POOR PEOPLE; and
- c) swiftly establish and assign these warranted and essential headings related to poverty and social policy: CHILDREN OF UNEMPLOYED PARENTS, CLASSISM, CLASSISM IN CAPITAL PUNISHMENT [ECONOMIC POLICY, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY, LAW, etc.], CORPORATE POWER, CORPORATE WELFARE, DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM, ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY, FOOD SHELVES, HOMELESS AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN, HOMELESS BOYS, ~~HOMELESS FAMILIES~~, HOMELESS FAMILY SERVICES, HOMELESS GIRLS, HOMELESS MENTALLY ILL PERSONS, HOMELESS PEOPLE IN ART, HOMELESS PEOPLE'S ART, HOMELESS TEENAGERS, INTERCLASS FRIENDSHIP, ~~LOW-INCOME HOUSING~~, NONCLASSIST CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, POOR AFRO-AMERICAN FAMILIES, POOR PARENTS, POOR ~~PEOPLE--EMPOWERMENT~~, POOR PEOPLE--RIGHTS, POOR SINGLE MOTHERS, RIGHT TO SHELTER, VIOLENCE AGAINST HOMELESS PEOPLE, VIOLENCE AGAINST POOR PEOPLE, WELFARE CONSUMERS--RIGHTS, and WORKING POOR PEOPLE.