

This resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Resolution Concerning Accessibility of ALA Conferences and Meetings for People with Disabilities

Whereas the ALA Council passed a Committee on Organization motion to appoint an Accessibility Assembly representative to the Conference Committee (CD#27.2 of 2010);

Whereas ALA Policy A.7.1.1 prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in any of the facilities used by the American Library Association;

Whereas ALA policy A.7.1.3 states that those involved with planning for and executing conferences “shall be aware of and sensitive to the problems of conference participants with disabilities, in the selection, planning, and layout of all conference facilities, especially meeting rooms and exhibit areas”;

Whereas the intent of ALA’s Core Values is to foster a diverse environment within the Association (ALA Policy B.1.1);

Whereas ALA policy B.3.3 states that “The American Library Association actively commits its programs and resources to those efforts that combat prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination against individuals and groups in the library profession and in library user populations on the basis of race, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, creed, color, religious background, national origin, language of origin or disability”; and

Whereas despite these policies, barriers to accessibility for conference attendees with disabilities persist;

Whereas practical methods for addressing and resolving accessibility grievances during conferences and meetings are not firmly established;

Whereas the Conference Committee Accessibility Assembly liaison has only recently been re-assigned to the committee;

Whereas there needs to be consistent and systematic review of all contracts to ensure that they require digital content vendors and conference venues to comply with provisions with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and;

Whereas there is no set training program for all leaders and staff of ALA units pertaining to the needs of ALA members and conference attendees with disabilities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

Establish and charge a Conference Accessibility Task Force to:

1. Collect data from ALA Members and conference attendees with disabilities;
2. Establish methods for reviewing and addressing accessibility grievances;
3. Draft guidelines for review of contracts to ensure ADA and WCAG compliance;
4. Research best practices for accessibility training and makes a recommendation for implementation;
5. Report progress to Council during the ALA Annual Conference 2016 and ALA Midwinter 2017 and;
6. Make a final report to Council with recommendations during ALA Annual Conference 2017 in Chicago.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, January 12, 2016, in Boston, Massachusetts



Keith Michael Fiels
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council