

## 58.5

**At the 2006 ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, upon recommendation by the Policy Monitoring Committee, the ALA Council approved the codification of ALA Policy 58.5 Rights of Librarians and Library Workers to Travel, which read:**

The American Library Association affirms and supports the rights of librarians and library workers in or from the U.S to travel to all countries in order to attend and participate in conferences, to purchase books and other library materials, to meet and develop working relationships with librarians, to develop gift and exchange programs, to pursue and establish ties with library and other professional associations and libraries, and to conduct educational and professional library-related activities. In addition, ALA affirms and supports the rights of librarians and library workers from outside the U.S. to travel to the U.S., and not be prohibited or impeded by U.S. government policies, to attend and participate in conferences, to purchase books and other library materials, to meet and develop working relationships with librarians and library staff, to develop gift and exchange programs, to pursue and establish ties with library and other professional associations and libraries, and to conduct educational and professional library-related activities. (See "Policy Reference File": Resolution on Rights of Librarians and Library Workers to Travel, 2005-2006 ALA CD#18.2)

Rights of Librarians and Library Workers to Travel

- Whereas, The ALA Charter states that the Association was formed “for the purpose of promoting library interest throughout the world by exchanging views, reaching conclusions, and inducing cooperation in all departments of bibliotheca science and economy”; and
- Whereas, ALA Policy 58.1 International Relations Policy Objectives “encourage involvement of librarians, information specialists, and other library personnel in international library activities and in the development of solutions to library service problems that span national boundaries”; and
- Whereas, U.S. Government policies can prohibit or impede librarians and library workers in or from the U.S. to make professional visits to colleagues in other countries, and prohibit or impede librarians and library staff from the outside the United States to make professional visits the United States; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That American Library Association (ALA) affirms and supports the rights of librarians and library workers in or from the U.S to travel to all countries in order to attend and participate in conferences, to purchase books and other library materials, to meet and develop working relationships with librarians, to develop gift and exchange programs, to pursue and establish ties with library and other professional associations and libraries, and to conduct educational and professional library-related activities; and, be it further
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Adopted by the ALA Council  
Wednesday, January 25, 2006  
San Antonio, Texas

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