

RESOLUTION ON GAY RIGHTS

- WHEREAS approximately 10% of American men and women are gay, and
- WHEREAS there now exists a climate of hostility toward equal rights for gay citizens, and
- WHEREAS much of this hostility is generated by individuals and groups who perpetuate ignorance and fear through misinformation, and
- WHEREAS in 1971 the American Library Association Council and Membership adopted a resolution recommending that "libraries and members strenuously combat discrimination in services to and employment of individuals from all minority groups, whether distinguishing characteristics of the minority be ethnic, sexual, religious or any other kind,"
- BE IT RESOLVED That the Council reaffirms its support for equal employment opportunity for gay librarians and library workers, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That to combat the current campaign against full human rights for gay American citizens, Council recommends that libraries reaffirm their obligation under the Library Bill of Rights to disseminate information representing all points of view on this controversial topic.

Adopted by Council, June 22, 1977

VOTED, That Council adopts Membership Document 7
FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION (Exhibit 12).

RESOLUTION ON GAY RIGHTS - Exhibit 13. Dorothy Broderick moved adoption, with Suzanne LeBarron's second, of the Resolution, and immediately moved and got consent of Council to postpone discussion until the Third Council meeting awaiting endorsement by additional units. On June 22, the Resolution was ADOPTED in a blanket endorsement of "non-controversial" resolutions before the House. The Resolution, having been adopted, (Exhibit 13), for the record Ms. Broderick stated, "The groups that endorsed this Resolution are the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, the SRRT membership, the Council Committee on the Status of Women, and the Young Adult Services Division Board of Directors. With regard to the YASD, there was a further statement, not of policy, but which I would like to bring to the attention of this Council. That statement reads, 'In endorsing the Resolution on Gay Rights, the Young Adult Services Division wishes also to state that it rejects the idea that gay men and lesbians working with adolescents represent any more of a threat to the sexual and moral development of young people than any other group of library employees.'"
