

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LINDA F. CRISMOND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



50 EAST HURON STREET CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611 U.S.A.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 312-280-3205 DEPUTY DIRECTOR 312-280-3208
COUNCIL BOARD SECRETARY 312-280-3203 FAX 312-944-3807

POOR PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The American Library Association promotes equal access to information for all persons, and

WHEREAS, Poor people are affected by a combination of limitations, including illiteracy, illness, social isolation, homelessness, hunger, and discrimination, which create barriers that reduce the effectiveness of typical library service, and

WHEREAS, The number of poor children, adults, and families in America is increasing, therefore, it be

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association adopt the following policy on Library Service to Poor People, modeled on the ALA Minority Policy:

The American Library Association promotes equal access to information for all persons, and recognizes the urgent need to respond to the increasing number of poor children, adults, and families in America. These people are affected by a combination of limitations, including illiteracy, illness, social isolation, homelessness, hunger, and discrimination, which hamper the effectiveness of traditional library services. Therefore, it is crucial that libraries recognize their role in enabling poor people to participate fully in a democratic society, by utilizing a wide variety of available resources and strategies. Concrete programs of training and development are needed to sensitize and prepare library staff to identify poor people's needs and deliver relevant services. And within the American Library Association the coordinating mechanisms for programs and activities dealing with poor people in various divisions, offices, and units should be strengthened, and support for low-income liaison activities should be enhanced.

The American Library Association shall implement these objectives by:

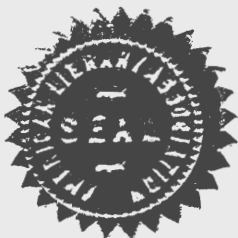
1. Promoting the removal of all barriers to library and information services, particularly fees and overdue charges.

POOR PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY RESOLUTION/2

2. Promoting the publication, production, purchase and ready accessibility of print and non-print 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.
3. Promoting full, stable, and ongoing funding for existing legislative programs in support of low-income services, and for pro-active library programs that reach beyond traditional service-sites for poor children, adults, and families.
4. Promoting training opportunities for librarians, in order to teach effective techniques for generating public funding to upgrade library services to poor people.
5. Promoting the incorporation of low-income programs and services into regular library budgets in all types of libraries, rather than the tendency to support these projects solely with "soft money" like private or federal grants.
6. Promoting equity in funding adequate library services for poor people in terms of materials, facilities, and equipment.
7. Promoting supplemental support for library resources for and about low-income populations by urging local, state, and federal governments, and the private sector, to provide adequate funding.
8. Promoting increased public awareness--through programs, displays, bibliographies, and publicity--of the importance of poverty-related library resources and services in all segments of society.
9. Promoting the determination of output measures through the encouragement of community needs assessments, giving special emphasis to assessing the needs of low-income people and involving both anti-poverty advocates and poor people themselves in such assessments.
10. Promoting direct representation of poor people and anti-poverty advocates through appointment to local boards and creation of local advisory committees on service to low-income people, such appointments to include library-paid transportation and stipends.
11. Promoting training to sensitize library staff to issues affecting poor people and to attitudinal and other barriers that hinder poor people's use of libraries.

POOR PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY RESOLUTION/3

12. Promoting networking and cooperation between libraries and other agencies, organizations, and advocacy groups in order to develop programs and services that effectively reach poor people.
13. Promoting the implementation of an expanded federal low-income housing program, national health insurance, full-employment policy, living minimum wage and welfare payments, affordable day care, and other programs likely to reduce, if not eliminate poverty itself.
14. Promoting among library staff the collection of food and clothing donations, volunteering personal time to anti-poverty activities, and contributing money to direct-aid organizations.
15. Promoting related efforts concerning minorities and women, since these groups are disproportionately represented among poor people.



APOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA)
June, 1990, in Chicago, Illinois

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda F. Crismond".

Linda F. Crismond
Secretary of ALA Council

3

POVERTY FACT SHEET

An estimated three million people are homeless nationwide, with more and more families with children becoming homeless.

[Safety Network, June 1989]

Percentage of American children living in poverty in 1979: 16%.
Percentage of American children living in poverty in 1987: 20%.

[Congressional Budget Office]

The number of members of family households seeking shelter has nearly doubled since 1984. In large jurisdictions, numbers of persons in sheltered families has more than quadrupled over the past four years, to over 60,000 in 1988.

**[Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD, 451 7th St. SW,
Washington, DC 20410]**

During the eight years of the Reagan Administration, the average income of the poorest 20% of Americans fell 6.1% to \$5107, while that of the richest 20% rose 11.1% to \$68,775.

[U.S. House Ways and Means Committee, March 1989]

A U.S. Conference of Mayors survey of 27 major cities found that demand for emergency shelter increased an average of 25% in 1989. In 1988, the mayors reported an increase of 13%.

[Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities: 1989]

In a survey conducted by the Council of State Governments, 41 states reported that the size of their homeless population is increasing, 4 states reported that the number of homeless is not changing, 4 states did not respond to the survey, and one state reported that their homeless population was decreasing.

**[Council of State Governments, Iron Works Pike, P.O. Box 11910, Lexington,
KY 40578-9989]**

Between 1978 and 1987, the number of full-time workers who remained poor rose by 43%. Full-time work at the minimum wage now leaves a family of three \$2,900 below the poverty line, a family of four \$5,000 short of it.

**[National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, 1575 I St. NW,
Washington, DC 20005, 202-289-1680]**

AFDC grant levels in 1976 were at 89.7% of the poverty level.
AFDC grant levels in 1988 were at 66.9% of the poverty level.

[Women Work and Welfare]

Copies to be sent to:

Sybil Moses, Editor
Empowerment
Office for Library Outreach Services
American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

Noel Peattie, Editor
Sipapu
23311 County Road 88
Winters, CA 95694

Marvin Scilken, Editor
Unabashed Librarian
G.P.O. Box 2631
New York, NY 10001

John Crawford, Editor
Peoples Culture
P.O. Box 27334
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Allan M. Kleiman, Editor
Library Outreach Reporter
1671 E. 16th St. (Suite 226)
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Susan DiMattia, Editor
Library Hotline
44 Chatham Road
Stamford, CT 06903

GraceAnne A. DeCandido
Library Journal
249 W. 17th St.
New York, NY 10011

George C. Grant, Editor
Black Caucus Newsletter
Rollins College Library
P.O. Box 2654
Winter Park, FL 32789

Elena Tscherny, Editor
REFORMA Newsletter
c/o D. C. Public Library
901 G St. NW (Room 410)
Washington, DC 20001

ALA Council
MINUTES
1990 Annual Conference

hour of any meeting for members to relieve or maintain whatever habits they have." The motion was DEFEATED, whereupon it was

VOTED, That Section 7.1.5 of the ALA Policy Manual be replaced by the following statement: "Smoking is prohibited in open meetings and programs sponsored by ALA units during ALA Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Third Meeting

The third meeting of the 1990 Annual Conference ALA Council meeting convened at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 27, in the International Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton Hotel and Towers. President Patricia Wilson Berger presided, assisted by President-Elect Richard M. Dougherty.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. President Berger brought Council's attention to her letter to Major R. Owens on the Closing of Columbia Library School (CD#78), which has since been produced on ALA stationery and made available to the Council.

Councilor Richard Buck was thanked for his efforts in organizing a demonstration against restrictions in the guidelines from the NEA and HEH.

President Berger asked President-Elect Dougherty to preside during the first portion of the meeting.

Councilor Frankie Cubbedge moved that the Committee on Organization Report be moved to the first item of business after consideration of the Membership Resolutions. No objection was raised.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (CD#111--Exhibit 28). In accordance with established procedures, the first item of business at the final Council Meeting is receipt of Membership Resolutions having policy implications. Bonnie Beth Mitchell, Chair, Council Resolutions Committee, submitted CD#111, which introduced each Membership Resolution.

POOR PEOPLE'S SERVICE POLICY RESOLUTION (MD#1--Exhibit 28.1). On motion by Councilor Mitchell for the Resolutions Committees, it was

VOTED, That the Poor People's Services Policy Resolution--MD#1--be adopted.

Whereupon, referring to the Resolutions Committee's introduction of the Resolution, Councilor Norman Horrocks, seconded by Councilor Marvin Scilken, moved and by general consent it was

VOTED, That the People's Services Policy Resolution--MD#1--be referred to the ALA Committee on Access on Information. It was asked if a specific timetable was requested for reporting on implementation of the resolution. Councilor Horrocks responded that he would rely on the Chair of the Access to Information to move expeditiously.

RESOLUTION ON COLUMBUS QUINCENTENNIAL (MD#2--Exhibit 28.2). Ms. Mitchell reported that the Resolutions Committee felt that this document, as passed by the membership, is consistent with existing policies, and no further action is necessary unless the Council wants to be more specific about the phrase (how ALA should urge libraries to comply). It was noted, however, that the Executive Director and the Public Information Office will automatically disseminate this information.

RESOLUTION ON CLOSING SCHOOLS OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (CD#89, MD#3--see Exhibit 25). Ms. Mitchell pointed out that this Membership document was approved in Council II.

GUIDELINES FOR LIBRARIANS INTERACTING WITH SOUTH AFRICA (MD#4--Exhibit 28.3). Ms. Mitchell stated that MD#4 has in its text various ALA policies, and the text of the document is consistent with those policies. However, the policies refer to the organization and library level and the document enunciates guidelines to be followed at the librarian level. She further stated that if there is continued concern about this document in Council members, the Resolutions Committee would recommend that the document be referred to a joint committee of the International, Intellectual Freedom and the Professional Ethics Committees for their review and recommendation. It was pointed out that Membership had amended Guideline 2.3 to read, "we note that the lack of free flow of information to and from the mass democratic organizations and anti-apartheid institutions in South Africa has inhibited the evolution of South African democracy." The following ALA groups endorsed Membership Document #4: ACRL, AASL, PLA, ALCTS, ALSC, International Relations Committee, ALA Black Caucus, IRRT, RTSD, YASD, Committee on the Status of Women, and GODERT.

Councilor Gerald Shields, Professional Ethics Committee Chair, read for the record PEC's position paper which concluded, "...this Association as an institution has gone on record in opposition to any suppression of the right of a human being to free and untrammelled access to dignity and free choice. Our ethics statements place upon the shoulders of those who claim professional status a commitment to fair, equitable, and just treatment for all. I urge that the disposition of this impassioned document not be voted down nor adopted as policy for the entire Association. We advocate its continued presence among the units of this Association as an advisory testament to our already stated opposition to apartheid not only in South Africa but in every nation of the world including our very own."

Councilor Shields, and several seconders, moved that the MD#4 be referred to a joint committee of the Intellectual Freedom, International Relations, and

1989-90 CD #111

To: ALA Council

From: Resolutions Committee
Bonnie Beth Mitchell, Chair

RE: Membership Documents

The Resolutions Committee has reviewed the Membership Documents passed at the 1990 Membership Meetings and recommends the following:

- MD #1 proposed a policy in an area where none presently exists. Council needs to determine whether it wishes to establish such a policy itself, delegate the task to one of its committees, and/or involve other units of the Association. Further, Council needs to specify a time frame for completion of this assignment.
- MD #2 is consistent with Policies 53.1(2) and 53.1.11. No further action is necessary unless the Council wishes to outline a specific plan for urging libraries to provide the programs and materials named in the resolve. Council members should be aware that the Executive Director and the PIO will automatically disseminate this information.
- MD #3 has already been acted upon in Council II.
- MD #4 includes in its text notation of various ALA policies. As passed, it is consistent with those policies; however, those policies refer to the organization and library level and the document enunciates guidelines to be followed at the librarian level.
- MD #5 is another document for which we have no policy. We do have policies relating to non-discrimination and equal employment relating to facilities, but none relating to labor disputes. The resolve presupposes that a labor dispute is the result of these two concerns which may not always be true; therefore, the committee recommends no action.