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Library Services and Construction Act: Reauthorization (1989-1994): Correspondence 01

Paul W. Schroeder

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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND

1155 15th Street, N.W. • Suite 720 • Washington, DC 20005
Telephone (202) 467-5081 • Fax (202) 467-5085

Oral O. Miller, J.D.
National Representative

October 15, 1994

Frank Kurt Cylke, Director
National Library Services for the Blind and
Physically Handicapped
1291 Taylor St., NW
Washington, DC 20542

Dear Mr. Cylke:

On behalf of the American Council of the Blind, I am pleased to provide you with a copy of a resolution approved by our membership at our recent annual convention. The resolution draws attention to several areas which are considered of critical importance in your efforts to revise the Standards and Guidelines of Service for the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

ACB, and its special interest affiliate Library Users of America, focused on four specific areas where action is needed in the standards:

1. a clear and unequivocal requirement that each network library establish an advisory committee of its users which is representative as to geography, ethnicity, gender and disability;
2. clear service standards that set time limits within the library that will govern how quickly applications for service, requests for books or other consumer-related service standards can be expected to be processed;
3. clear and forward-looking technological standards that will require libraries to work toward making on-line catalog functions and access to the information highway elements intrinsic to their future growth and accessible to all users.

I am also enclosing a copy of a separate resolution regarding service by public libraries. While the issues around public libraries are distinct from the NLS program, the resolution provides additional context and information about access to information and services provided libraries.

Frank Kurt Cylke
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As you know, ACB is committed to working with you and the ASCLA standards Committee to complete and implement the standards document. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about the enclosed material.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Schroeder
Director of Governmental Affairs

cc: Cathleen Bourdon, Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library
Agencies
Richard Jerue, Subcommittee on Labor-Management Relations
Daniel Ritter, Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities

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1001 McClung Tower
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Nolan Crabb
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Paul Schroeder
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Jennifer Sutton
Coordinator of Affiliate and Membership
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Glenn Plunkett
Program Associate

James R. Olsen
Assistant Treasurer
120 S 6th St., Suite 1005
Minneapolis, MN 55402



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1155 15th Street, N.W. • Suite 720 • Washington, DC 20005
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Oral O. Miller, J.D.
National Representative

Resolution 94-13

STRENGTHEN ALA STANDARDS FOR NETWORK LIBRARIES

WHEREAS, the American Library Association is currently engaged in rewriting the standards that govern service provided by network libraries and by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLSBPH); and

WHEREAS, blind and visually impaired people will be substantially affected by the standards adopted that govern the way service is provided at network libraries and through NLSBPH; and

WHEREAS, the working group that is preparing these standards is currently seeking comments concerning the second draft of these standards prior to their final rewriting and proposed adoption by the Spring of 1995;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the American Council of the Blind in convention assembled at Chicago, Illinois, this 9th day of July, 1994, that this organization strongly urges the inclusion of the following elements within the standards:

1. a clear and unequivocal requirement that each network library establish an advisory committee of its users which is representative as to geography, ethnicity, gender and disability;
2. clear service standards that set time limits within the library that will govern how quickly applications for service, requests for books or other consumer-related service standards can be expected to be processed;

3. clear and forward-looking technological standards that will require libraries to work toward making on-line catalog functions and access to the information highway elements intrinsic to their future growth and accessible to all users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers, Directors and staff of this organization join with their affiliate, Library Users of America, in seeking to assure that these elements be included in the standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the committee currently at work on setting these standards.

Adopted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia L. Price".

Patricia L. Price, Secretary



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National Representative

Resolution 94-12

ACCESS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

WHEREAS, the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), which is scheduled to be reauthorized by Congress next year, provides public libraries with federal funds for projects or construction; and

WHEREAS, individuals who are blind or visually impaired have a right to fully enjoy and use their local public libraries; and

WHEREAS, libraries are likely to become one of the centerpieces of the new information infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, several steps could be taken to expand collections, ensure access to information and otherwise encourage use of libraries by individuals who are blind or visually impaired;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the American Council of the Blind in convention assembled at Chicago, Illinois, this 8th day of July, 1994, that this organization urge Congress to amend the Library Services and Construction Act as follows in order to ensure that the needs of library users who are blind or visually impaired are addressed:

1. establish standards which ensure that new information technology (from Internet hookups and collection databases to the equipment necessary to use these services) is accessible to and usable by individuals with a variety of disabling conditions;

2. encourage the development of collections which include a variety of resources and media, including audio recordings, large print material, and described videos;
3. foster the provision of information about library and community services to the public through both analog (telephone) and digital (electronic) means;
4. direct that persons with disabilities, including individuals with visual impairments, be included on library advisory committees;
5. ensure that the availability of public transportation is considered in determining a site for the construction or expansion of a public library;
6. develop innovative outreach programs whose express purpose is to encourage participation in the services and activities of public libraries by people with disabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressional oversight committees for libraries, the President of the American Library Association, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and other entities deemed appropriate.

Adopted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia L. Price". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Patricia L. Price, Secretary