New

Resolutions of the
Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries & Information Services

Worcester / March 27, 1979
NEW RESOLUTIONS
for the March 27, 1979

MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES

MISCELLANEOUS

TV TAX FOR LIBRARY BOOKS

1. RESOLVED: That the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pass a dedicated tax of one-quarter of one percent of the purchase price of new television sets to be allocated to publicly supported libraries to buy books.

DISSEMINATION OF GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED RESEARCH RESULTS

2. RESOLVED: That appropriate allocation from federal research budgets be made to cover the costs of disseminating the resulting new information, thus giving some relief to libraries whose subscription now subsidize part of the information dissemination of government-supported research activity.

CABLE TELEVISION

3. RESOLVED: That the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services encourage and support the active participation of public libraries in their communities' licensing process for cable television and that said public libraries actively seek the opportunity and support to serve as the community public access channel.

AMERICAN CLASSICS

4. RESOLVED: That the publication of a complete, inexpensive, and readable edition of the classics of American literature be encouraged.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

(See also: Cable TV; Networking (11b); Role of the Library (15))

5. RESOLVED: Boards of Trustees and administrators of public libraries should involve community residents and representatives of community organizations in the decision-making process concerning budgets and programming through such means as, but not limited to, board and committees representation, public hearings, citizen review committees, and citizen audit committees, starting, when appropriate, at the local branch level.

6. RESOLVED: That public library boards and administrators should be accountable for their decisions to library users, who shall be encouraged to develop consumer involvement in library affairs, which affect their information needs.
(See also: TV tax for Library Books; Dissemination of Government-Supported Research Results; Networking (11c); Role of the Library (14 & 16); Special Libraries and Media Centers (19); Special Groups (23); Technology)

**FUNDING FOR ACCESSIBILITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION**

7. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference urge Congress to appropriate such sums as are authorized under Title II of the Public Services and Construction Act for the purpose of providing aid to public libraries for improving facility accessibility and energy conservation.

8. RESOLVED: That federal and state funds should be provided to support city, county, and rural libraries in low-income neighborhoods to guarantee access to basic library services for people who are unable to travel to central libraries because of age, health, lack of income, or lack of transportation, and that branch libraries should be supported as a means of saving energy used in transportation to central libraries. And that federal and state funds should be provided to central libraries in locations accessible by mass transit, as a means of social justice for transit-dependent low-income elderly people and as a means of reducing energy consumed in travel to the libraries by car.

**INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM**

9. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services in endorsing the principles of intellectual freedom expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and the Challenge Read statement, FURTHER RESOLVES that libraries as guarantors of the freedom to read have a responsibility to collect and to make accessible to all citizens the widest possible variety of materials and points of view, and to contest attempts by individuals or groups to impose their standards or tastes upon library collections by censorship, materials or restricting access to them.

**LITERACY**

10. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference strongly urges the Governor, the Legislature, the State Library Agency and boards and trustees of local libraries to work in partnership with established literacy programs to implement effective basic reading and English as a second language tutorial programs in order to meet the libraries' obligation to reach out to a neglected constituency and create new users.

**NETWORKING**

11. RESOLVED: Whereas the bulk of support for library resources is at the local and institutional level, and WHEREAS given the fact that individual, institutional, and political boundaries mean nothing to the individual seeking information, therefore be it RESOLVED (a) that systematic research and planning should take place on local, regional, state,
and national levels for sharing resources and services; and that public polling techniques should be employed to determine the public attitudes toward and concerns about library and information services, public and private, especially regarding the acceptance of their services in meeting the needs of the public; and therefore, libraries be viewed as educational institutions and shall be funded at levels commensurate with that role.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

(See: Cable Television; Community Involvement; Funding; Role of the Library)

12. RESOLVED: That the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the American Library Association, the Massachusetts Library Association, and other national and state library organizations, and the Board of Library Commissioners in Massachusetts make national and state publicity of library services one of their primary concerns and that they allocate an adequate proportion of their budgets to provide the services that are or should be available to all library user groups.

ROLE OF THE LIBRARY

(See also: Cable TV; Intellectual Freedom; Literacy; Libraries; School Media Center (18); Special Needs Group; Technology)

13. RESOLVED: That the Board of Education be instructed to prepare a statement that will designate the library as an institution of lifelong education.

14. RESOLVED: That the state of Massachusetts and the federal government recognize the role of the public library as an institution of free and open education open to all ages and conditions, to include particularly limited to, the poor, the pre-schooler, the senior citizen, the auto mechanic, the teacher, the businessperson, and in short, that the public library is worthy of financial support at all levels.

15. RESOLVED: Whereas the public library is a free public agency controlled by the citizen, and whereas the library has within its scope an entire realm of public and private information, be it RESOLVED that citizens have an obligation to encourage and promote citizen participation in political, financial and cultural affairs that affect the Commonwealth.

16. RESOLVED: That the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognize the major public libraries to be an educational resource of great importance to the citizens of the Commonwealth, and that Chapter 78 of the General Laws (Chapter 764, Acts of 1974) be amended to include such recognition as an integral part of library legislation.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND MEDIA CENTERS

17. RESOLVED: That in the interest of providing equality of educational opportunity for all students in the Commonwealth, there be a library media center in every school.

18. RESOLVED: That library media centers be recognized as teaching stations, and be staffed by certified personnel.
19. **RESOLVED:** That categorical and discretionary funding patterns be reviewed at all levels of government to assure continued growth in the use of school library media services.

20. **RESOLVED:** That access to school libraries be mandated for all children of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

21. **RESOLVED:** That secondary schools and public libraries be encouraged expected to join in a cooperative effort to develop student interest in library work and to plan for student learning about the offerings and use of library services to be used in their adult years.

22. **RESOLVED:** That the State Board of Education should establish a requirement for graduation from high school that students successfully complete a course in library skills or a course to be not less than 90 hours of instruction and class time.

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**SPECIAL NEEDS GROUP**

23. **RESOLVED:** That both federal and state agencies examine and establish guidelines for the granting of funds for resources and training of equipment or materials involving audio and/or visual consideration of specific requirements or criteria relating to the needs of grant awards. The awarding process should include the immediate or ready application and accessibility of equipment designed to meet the needs of the visually handicapped, the hearing impaired, the mentally handicapped, those with speech problems, and the orthopedically handicapped.

24. **RESOLVED:** That all systems of technological applications to libraries be designed to meet the needs of those who are unable to read, of the print reading majority, including, and the elderly, computerized materials.

25. **RESOLVED:** That library staff training programs aimed at dealing with disadvantaged people be provided and that librarians working in these areas be involved with the preparation of the training programs.

26. **RESOLVED:** That the library association take on the plight of the neglected child and provide challenging activities of print forms in local and school libraries.

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**TECHNOL...**

(See also Special Needs Group (24))

27. **RESOLVED:** That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference propose that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts set aside grant funds in the amount of $50,000 to be used to initiate programs which are responsive to the information needs of local people, for example: skills exchanges, personal computing networks, information referral services.