1992-93 MD# 8 -

RESOLUTION TO MEMBERSHIP

Library of congress

Whereas, the effectiveness of the Library of Congress as a center for scholarly research has been diminished by the recent restrictions on stack access, closing of the Manuscript Reading Room on Saturdays, and reduced hours for use of all research facilities;

Whereas, the Library of Congress has served as the storehouse for over a century of this country's knowledge and contains unique items that cannot be found elsewhere;

Whereas, the Librarian of Congress made a unilateral decision to close the stacks following unfavorable publicity in the press and refused to consider implementing an improved security system that might protect collections from theft and damage but still allow screened researchers access to their sources;

Whereas, there is conclusive evidence that the Library of Congress failed during the last ten years to enforce even rudimentary security measures;

Whereas, there has been no evidence in reported thefts implicating any researcher engaged in a bona fide scholarly historical research project;

Whereas, stack access make it possible for researchers to pursue their work rigorously and efficiently and at a level of detail that is not easily achieved through standard finding aids;

Whereas, members of the Library of Congress staff have been restricted from the stacks, an act which inhibits staff members' professional development and serious morale problems throughout the Library of Congress;

Whereas, Saturday closings of the Manuscrit,t Reading Room place a hardship on

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the Library of Congress staff, and urge the Librarian of Congress to reopen the Manuscript

ALA MEMBERSHIP MEETING II

Wednesday, June 30, 1993, 9 a.m.-12 Noon New Orleans Convention Center, Ballroom I

COUNCIL MINUTES
Annual Conference
June 1993

INTRODUCTIONS. President-Elect Hardy R. Franklin reintroduced President Marilyn L. Miller, Parliamentarian Edwin

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RF.SOLUTION ON THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, MD#8, Exhibit 48. ALA members Elaine Harger and Stephen Stillwell moved that the American Library Association urges the Librarian of Congress to recognize that closed stacks, Saturday closings of the Manuscript Reading Room, and reduced hours for use of other research rooms severely imperil the research of some scholars and hinder the day-to-day work of the Library of Congress staff; and urge the Librarian of Congress to reopen the Manuscript Reading Room on Saturday, to reopen the Library on Tuesday and Friday evenings, and to seek a middle ground on access to the stacks that would reflect the needs of security concerns, scholars, and Library of Congress staff.

After a brief discussion, ALA members Sandra Stephan and Beverly Papai moved and Membership

VOTED, To table the Resolution on the Library of Congress, MD#8.

RF.SOLUTION ON IFLA CONFERENCE IN HAVANA, CUBA, MD#9 Exhibit 49, AND RF.SOLUTION ON UNITED STATF.S MILITARY SURVEILLANCE

INFORMATION, MD# 15, Exhibit 50. These resolutions were withdrawn from the agenda.

RESOLUTION ON DOMF.STIC PARTNERSHIP, MD#l0, Exhibit 51. ALA members Stephen Stillwell and Thomas L. Wilding moved the members of ALA urge that a committee be established to review all ALA Headquarters personnel policies and employee benefits to ensure that no discrimination exists and that domestic partnership is recognized; and, that any necessary arrangements with insurers and others to bring this into effect be is 68.26 323.7399 nd,