**Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Injustice**

Whereas monetary fines do not serve the core mission of the modern library;

Whereas monetary fines are not equitable and present an economic barrier to access of library materials and services to the most financially vulnerable such as the homeless, those who live in poverty, and children;

Whereas there is no research to support the continued existence of monetary fines as an incentive for borrowing compliance, but there is mounting evidence that indicates fine elimination boosts library usage and engagement;

Whereas monetary fines create conflict points between staff and the community, act as a barrier in public relations, and utilize valuable staff time applying, collecting, and managing what can only be described as a regressive tax;

Whereas in a statement on reducing homelessness through library engagement, the American Library Association (ALA) declared it would implement ALA’s policy on library service to the poor by means of, “Promoting the removal of all barriers to library and information services, particularly fees and overdue charges”;

Whereas ALA Policy B.4.2 (Free Access to Information) “asserts that the charging of fees and levies for information services, including those services utilizing the latest information technology, is discriminatory in publicly supported institutions providing library and information services”;

Whereas in Economic Barriers to Information Access, An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, ALA states “All library policies and procedures, particularly those involving fines, fees, or other user charges, should be scrutinized for potential barriers to access”; and

Whereas monetary fines are archaic, unjust, and require determined and pragmatic action from libraries – with support from library associations – to dismantle; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members

1. adds a statement to the Policy Manual that establishes that “The American Library Association asserts that imposition of monetary library fines is discriminatory in publicly supported institutions providing library and information services.”;
2. urges libraries of all types to stop the practice of imposing fines on library patrons; and
3. urges governing bodies to fund libraries so they are not dependent on monetary fines as a necessary source of revenue.

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