

**Report to ALA Council
Policy Monitoring Committee
2019 ALA Annual Meeting**

In accordance with Policy A.4.2.6 of the *ALA Policy Manual*, the Policy Monitoring Committee (PMC) has reviewed all actions taken by the ALA Council during the 2019 ALA Midwinter Conference for possible incorporation into, addition to, or changes to the *ALA Policy Manual*. Based on Council actions at the Annual Conference in Seattle, WA the Policy Monitoring Committee finds the following items that require action:

Action Items:

Item #1. At the 2019 ALA Midwinter Conference, the ALA Council adopted 2018-2019 ALA CD#14_act, Library Services to the Poor. Based on Council's action, **PMC MOVES INSERTION** of the following:

B.8.10 Addressing Poverty, Economic Inequality, and the Responsibilities of Libraries (Old Number 61)

The American Library Association promotes equal access to information for all persons and recognizes the need to respond to people experiencing poverty in the United States. People experiencing poverty may be 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 people experiencing poverty 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 prepare library staff to identify needs and deliver relevant services to people experiencing poverty. In addition, the American Library Association (divisions, offices, and units) should be strengthened to support low-income and people experiencing poverty through programs and activities.

B.8.10.1 Policy Objectives (Old Number 61.1)

The American Library Association shall implement these objectives by:

1. Promoting the removal of barriers to library and information services, particularly fees, and overdue charges.
2. Promoting the publication, production, purchase, and ready accessibility of print and non-print materials that focus directly on the issues of poverty that engage people respectfully, and are practical and responsive to low-income library users and their needs.
3. Promoting full, stable, and ongoing funding for existing legislative programs and services in support of people experiencing poverty and for pro-active library programs that reach beyond traditional service-sites.
4. Promoting training opportunities for librarians and library staff to learn effective funding techniques to improve accessibility for library users experiencing poverty.
5. Acknowledging economic equity in funding by promoting the incorporation of programs, services, and resources for people experiencing poverty into regular budgets in all types of libraries, regardless of the

availability of “soft money” like private or federal grants to support these programs.

6. 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.
7. Promoting increased public awareness through programs, displays, bibliographies, and publicity related to libraries’ responsibilities in addressing economic barriers to service.
8. Promoting the determination of service outcomes through the active support of community needs assessments that directly involve community members who are experiencing poverty.
9. Promoting direct representation and support of community members who are experiencing, have experienced, or advocate for people experiencing poverty on local boards and advisory committees.
10. Promoting library staff training that raises awareness; relates to issues affecting the daily realities of people experiencing poverty; recognizes and addresses attitudinal and other barriers that hinder equal access to library services and resources.
11. Promoting networking and cooperation between libraries and other agencies, organizations, and advocacy groups to develop programs and services that are useful and relevant for people experiencing poverty.
12. Promoting the implementation of expanded federal programs that acknowledge and address poverty.
13. Promoting, supporting and facilitating local community efforts to meet the needs of all community members, especially those experiencing poverty.
14. Acknowledging the disproportionate rate at which poverty affects underserved populations, including but not limited to women, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, non-Native English speakers, formerly incarcerated people, and people with disabilities.
15. Encouraging the use of respectful, inclusive and person-first language, such as “community members experiencing poverty.”
16. Encouraging a parity of library services, hours, resources, and facilities between affluent and low-income library neighborhoods.
17. Promoting an attractive and inviting environment in all libraries including low-income neighborhoods.
18. Promoting the development of collections, programs, and services to help bridge the literacy gap for non-English speakers and new readers in all libraries, including low-income neighborhoods.
19. Promoting publications, outreach, and marketing in the native language for Speakers of Other Languages in all libraries, including low-income neighborhoods.
20. Promoting the review of public conduct policies and administrative procedures to ensure they are not creating unintentional barriers to people experiencing poverty.

Item #2. At the 2019 ALA Midwinter Conference, the ALA Council adopted 2018-2019 ALA CD#37, Resolution for the Adoption of Sustainability as a Core Value of Librarianship. Based on Council's action, **PMC MOVES INSERTION** of the following:

A.1.4 Core Organizational Values (Old Number 1.3.1)

The Association is committed to:

- Extending and expanding library services in America and around the world
- All types of libraries – academic, public, school and special
- All librarians, library staff, trustees and other individuals and groups working to improve library services
- Member service
- An open, inclusive, and collaborative environment
- Ethics, professionalism and integrity
- Excellence and innovation
- Intellectual Freedom
- Social responsibility and the public good
- Sustainability

Item #3. At the 2019 ALA Midwinter Conference, the ALA Council adopted 2018-2019 ALA CD#38, Resolution on Eliminating Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity. Based on Council's action, **PMC MOVES INSERTION** of the following:

B.4.2 Free Access to Information (Old Number 50.3)

The American Library Association asserts that imposition of monetary library fines creates a barrier to the provision of library and information services. The American Library Association shall seek to make it possible for library and information service agencies which receive their major support from public funds to provide service to all people without additional fees and to utilize the latest technological developments to insure the best possible access to information, and ALA will actively promote its position on equal access to information.

Policy Monitoring Committee

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