RESOLUTION ON NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S
SCIENCE, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS LIBRARY

passed by the New York City Central Labor Council, Sept. 1995

WHEREAS the labor of human beings is central and indispensable
to all social relations, be they relations in the political, economic,
scientific, cultural or any other realm; and

WHEREAS the social institutions of a democratic society strive to
serve equally every sector of society including the laboring classes; and

WHEREAS the public library was conceived in the United States
of America to serve as an institution that could strengthen our de­
mocracy by facilitating the education of all members of our society
including workers; and

WHEREAS the New York City Central Labor Council is con­
cerned that the New York Public Library, a library of international
renown, in planning for its new research facility -- the Science, In­
dustry and Business Library -- is grossly neglecting the information­
al and educational needs of workers and labor organizations as
library users; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the New York City Central Labor Council calls
upon the NYPL to add the word "Labor" to the new library's name
-- making it the Science, Industry, Business AND LABOR Library.
In addition we ask that NYPL make provisions and allocate re­
sources so that the new library can enhance its collections and li­
brary services by integrating labor as both subject and constituency.

LIWO AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN UNIFICATION DEBATE

adopted by Library and Information Workers, Nov. 1995

The Library and Information Workers Organisation of South Africa
(LIWO) is an independent activist body involved in social trans­
formation. It aims to provide the space for critical and constructive
debate and projects, and to bring together LIS practitioners of all
kinds in an organisation working towards an equitable, non­
discriminatory information system accessible to all the people of
South Africa. It is a forum for the voiceless, the marginalised and
the non-conformist in the LIS sector within a culture of human
rights. In line with this progressive stance, LIWO's base is the indi­
vidual commitment of its members.

At its conference in July 1995, LIWO examined its role in a post­
apartheid South Africa and identified a need for its continued exis­
tence as an independent voice, thus precluding absorption into any
proposed single LIS organisation. This was reiterated at a national
meeting in November which followed branch-level consultations.
This stand has drawn much criticism from sections of the LIS com­
nunity in particular from ULIS, an initiative to draw all library as­
sociations into one association.

Although it has a democratically elected government, South Africa
is still in a difficult period of transition: the restructuring of all as­
pects and sectors of society, including the LIS sector, has barely be­
gun. Vigilance is necessary to ensure that real change occurs and
that the new order is not simply an extension of the old. A democ­
ocracy demands diversity and South African society is still far from
the desired goal of accepting differences of opinion and persuasion.