

**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 democracy by facilitating the education of all members of our society including workers; and

WHEREAS the New York City Central Labor Council is concerned that the New York Public Library, a library of international renown, in planning for its new research facility -- the Science, Industry and Business Library -- is grossly neglecting the informational 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 resources so that the new library can enhance its collections and library 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 transformation. 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 individual 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 existence 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 community in particular from ULIS, an initiative to draw all library associations into one association.

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