

## **RESOLUTION ON THE FEDERAL LIBRARY DEPOSITORY PROGRAM AND THE PRINT-ON-DEMAND ALLOWANCE PROGRAM**

### **Documents Association of New Jersey**

WHEREAS, the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), established more than 150 years ago, secures the right of the citizens of the United States to access materials published by the Federal Government through systematic distribution of materials to libraries throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Documents Association of New Jersey (DANJ), supports the American Library Association Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) Resolution of January 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Documents Association of New Jersey (DANJ), supports the Resolution on the Federal Library Depository Program by the New Jersey Law Librarians Association, March 14, 1005; and

WHEREAS, the Documents Association of New Jersey (DANJ) supports the sentiment expressed by James Madison: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives;" and

WHEREAS, the Documents Association of New Jersey (DANJ) recognizes its particular constituencies, both urban and rural, consisting of academic and legal researchers, the popular audience, civil libertarians, the journalism industry, and those interested in the freedom of information, both today and in future years; and

WHEREAS, we support the sharing of and access to information among unique libraries within the Depository Program, including regional libraries, selectives, academic libraries, law libraries, public libraries, and state libraries; and

WHEREAS, the reference specialists in each of these libraries that provide access to government information are available to all citizens due to the open access mandate of the Federal Depository Library Program. There is a need to recognize this core of experts, including the legal reference specialists, who serve as the intermediaries, the specialists with the contextual understanding of government material and its organization. They are a group of librarians committed to service who offer a specialized knowledge to all of our citizens, not merely to a select group. The need

to continue to provide this government information reference specialty is emphasized; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide adequate access to government information, documents need to continue to exist in both print and electronic formats, as both librarians and users recognize that access to information is frequently enhanced by its format, for contextual purposes and for ease of access; and

WHEREAS, although archiving options have been proposed, they are not yet in place, concerning the document librarian community about access to information for the future researcher; and

WHEREAS, concerns over the privatization of government information exist – a concern that flies in the face of the citizens' right to access government information through the Federal Depository Library Program; and

WHEREAS, an allowance of \$500 per depository library would be insufficient to provide adequate access to print documents. In this period of budget cuts to libraries, few libraries could purchase print documents beyond the allowance; in fact, the Print On Demand (POD) Allowance Program would require additional workload hours by document librarians due to the revised selection process, forcing a justification by library administrators for remaining members of the Federal Depository Library Program; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Documents Association of New Jersey (DANJ) strongly endorses the continued support of the Federal Depository Library Program, recognizing the benefits it provides to the citizens of New Jersey and the United States, by providing access to Federal government information in both print and electronic formats; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the proposed cuts to print distribution be recognized as a threat to the Federal Depository Library Program and a threat to the continued freedom of access to information that our citizens deserve; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to those representatives to the Spring Federal Depository Library Program Conference, April 2005, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Approved by the Executive Board of the  
Documents Association of New Jersey,

April 8, 2005