

# ALA Statement on Global Climate Change and a Call for Support for Libraries and Librarians

Whereas the current Administration has removed the data and information files on global climate change from the Websites of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (<http://www.epa.gov>) and the White House National Action Plan on Climate Change (<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/image/president27sclimateactionplan.pdf>), and has proposed severe budgetary reductions for decadal and ongoing research and monitoring programs supported by the United States (specifically with the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of Energy), and threatening to withdraw the United States from the 2015 Paris Agreement negotiated within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

Whereas the causes, effects, and implications of global climate change are robustly identified, assessed, discussed, and upon which international and national policies and agreements have been made, including the UNFCCC Twenty-first Conference of Parties held in Paris, France, and adopted by consensus on 12 December 2015, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment of September 2013, and the United States National Academy of Science, which is joined by dozens of other national academies, and scores of professional associations and societies in their belief that the world's climate is changing with human actions serving as the major contributing causes for these changes;<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> and

Whereas the information base on global climate change is large and growing, indicating a clear and present need for libraries and librarians to adopt sustainable practices (integrating the scientific and technical, social, policy, environmental, and economic approaches to ensuring organizational stability and resiliency across disciplines and lines of work), and for libraries and librarians to promote, support, and advocate for the promotion and understanding of the cross-disciplinary exchange of resources and ideas among stakeholders with the common thread of needs related to global climate change; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes that human interactions and activities affect the dynamics of Earth's climate system, and that there is a large and growing base of factual scientific data, information, and literature providing robust and accurate STE3M3 (scientific, technical,

- environmental/economic/ethical, medical/mathematical/management) evidence of global climate change;
2. affirms a commitment to the preservation and availability of this factual scientific data, information, and literature, both from government and citizen sources; and
  3. supports librarians, library workers, and educators, as they are guided by the ALA Policy Manual, in their roles for providing rigorous, robust, and accurate reference and referral services; access to data (both historical and current) and information resources, literature, and collections; and instruction in their use in assisting climate stakeholders' and library users' greater understanding of global climate change.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association Sunday, June 25, 2017, in Chicago, Illinois

*Endnotes*

- 1 Sutter, John D.; Berlinger, Joshua (12 December 2015). "Final draft of climate deal formally accepted in Paris". CNN. Cable News Network, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. <http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/12/world/global-climate-change-conference-vote/> Retrieved 31 May 2017.
- 2 "Human Influences on Climate Clear, IPCC Report Says." 27 September 2013, Geneva, Switzerland: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Press Release 2013/20/PR. See: [http://www.ipcc.ch/news\\_and\\_events/docs/ar5/press\\_release\\_ar5\\_wgi\\_en.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/docs/ar5/press_release_ar5_wgi_en.pdf) Retrieved 31 May 2017
- 3 "Advancing the Science of Climate Change, by America's Climate Choices," Panel on Advancing the Science of Climate Change; National Research Council. Washington D.C., National Academy Press. 2010, #978-0-309-14588-6. See: [http://www.nap.edu/download.php?record\\_id=12782#<http://www.nap.edu/download.php?record\\_id=12782](http://www.nap.edu/download.php?record_id=12782#<http://www.nap.edu/download.php?record_id=12782)
- 4 A select and partial list of professional associations stating their belief in the realities of global climate change includes: American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association of State Climatologists, American Chemical Society, American Geophysical Union, American Institute of Biological Sciences, American Meteorological Society, American Public Health Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, Ecological Society of America, Geological Society of America, National Academy of Sciences (United States of America), National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Center for Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Research Council, National Science Foundation, Pew Center on Global Climate Change, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.