RESOLUTIONS FROM
THE 1992 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
ON INDIAN EDUCATION
RELATING TO
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

ON NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

A. General Policy

1. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it shall be the policy of the Federal government to ensure that all Native Americans possess a basic program of public library and information services, including adequate facilities, print and nonprint resource collections, equipment, properly trained library and information personnel, and regional Native American networking infrastructures, and to encourage all States to adopt this policy within their State library development programs.

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to provide for the proper implementation of this policy, Title IV of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) should be amended as follows to include:

   Part A. Basic grants and supplemental entitlement should be funded by an LSCA set aside.

   Part B. Special Projects. Provision of $5,000,000 per fiscal year with 3 years of forward funding with a 20 percent matching requirement, continuation contingent upon positive evaluation.

   Part C. Training and Education. Provision of $1,000,000 for the first year, plus such sums as are required for subsequent years for (1) fellowships, (2) traineeships, (3) institutes and workshops.

   Part D. Research and demonstration studies.

   Part E. National Technical Assistance, Training, and Information Technology Center.


   Part G. National Advisory Committee on Native American Libraries, members to be appointed as follows: 4 by the House; 4 by the Senate; 4 by the President; 4 by the Chair of NCLIS -- 10 of these members shall be Native Americans nominated by Native American governments, organizations, and communities. This committee will be under the jurisdiction of the permanent, independent U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and will have a separate appropriation to carry out these activities.

   Part H. All programs will be administered by a special Library Services for Native Americans Branch within the Office of Library Programs (Office of Educational
Research and Improvement), for which Indian preference shall be applied for staffing according to regulations prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Additionally, adequate technical support and sufficient funds shall be provided to enable the professional staff to visit 10 percent of all program grantees annually.

B. Technical Amendments to Legislation Affecting Native American Libraries

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Children's Television Act of 1989 be amended to include a Native American set-aside providing the following:

   a. Require the FCC to mandate children's programming to include subjects especially representing acceptable and appropriate depiction of Native American history and culture.

   b. Ensure that current positive lifestyles and contributions of Native American people are represented accurately.

2. RESOLVED FURTHER that the National Museum of the American Indian Act be amended to provide for establishment of a National Native American Library Center within the Museum of the American Indian to:

   a. Implement the long-range strategic plan for development of library and information services to Native Americans as continually modified, monitored, and reevaluated by the Tribal governments operating under it.

   b. Serve as a stimulus and focal point for the preservation, production, collection, and distribution of materials of interest to Native American libraries.

   c. Operate as a clearinghouse and referral center for materials (including oral history and language materials).

   d. Provide technical assistance through a bank of Native American resource people who can provide intensive, short-term help through a "TRAILS-like" on-going program (the TRAILS program was a telephone based materials and technical assistance clearinghouse).

   e. Facilitate a national network capability.

   f. Establish links between the National Native American Library Center and high school and college counselors regarding library career training opportunities for Native American students.

   g. Encourage a horizontal approach to information access funding within BIA and other Federal agencies so that health, social services, economic development, job training, and other programs carry their own information services support components.
3. RESOLVED FURTHER that the Depository Library Program Act be amended to permit each Tribal government or Reservation to designate one library on or near a Reservation as a depository library for publications of the U.S. Government.

4. RESOLVED FURTHER that the High-Performance Computing Act of 1990 be amended to include Native American involvement in a coordinated Federal research program to ensure continued U.S. leadership in high-performance computing.

5. RESOLVED FURTHER that the Higher Education Act of 1966, which includes Native American Culture and Arts programs, be amended to provide the rewriting of Native American materials, including textbooks to correct inaccuracies as written by non-Native American authors and historians.

6. RESOLVED FURTHER that the Hawkins-Stafford Elementary and Secondary Education Act be amended to provide for cooperative library programs in conjunction with other child-serving agencies. Schools serving Native American children should be enabled to provide special after-school and homework help and tutoring programs in collaboration with other agencies providing similar help.

7. RESOLVED FURTHER that the Community Services Act, which contains provision for the administration of Native Americans, be amended to provide:
   
   a. Family literacy programs for all Native American communities.

   b. Coordination of existing resources such as child-care centers, health care programs, foster grandparents programs, and adult basic education programs.

   c. Culturally based programs which incorporate the oral tradition, Native American cultural materials, and the utilization of elders for intergenerational impact.

8. RESOLVED FURTHER to amend the Act authorizing the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to mandate that NCES collect statistical information on Tribal libraries and Tribal archives, including the same questions collected for other library services and additional questions, as needed, to reflect the uniqueness of Tribal collections.

9. RESOLVED FURTHER that the National Endowment for Humanities Act be amended to set aside no less than $500,000 or 10 percent (whichever is the greater) annually for special purpose grants to Tribal libraries.

C. Information Technology

1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that grants be made available to Native American libraries for the purchase of high-technology equipment and computer hardware and software.
2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that technical training be provided for Native American library staff to adapt and develop more appropriate and a greater number of technical tools to meet the specific needs of Native American libraries.

3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a major initiative, including funding, be provided for telecommunications for Native American library information systems (i.e., telephones, facsimile, satellite, fiber optics, and other state-of-the-art technology).

D. Sovereignty

1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that libraries be asked to implement policies which expressly support Tribal sovereignty, and

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the White House Conference on Library and Information Services adopt and express, as a part of their library policy, support for the existence of Tribes and their inherent sovereignty.

E. Professional Development of Library Personnel

1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that scholarships, internships, and training assistance funds be provided under a special legislative initiative to:

   a. Develop Native American library professionals and paraprofessionals.

   b. Acquire resources and funding for continuing education and professional development of Native American library personnel and library and information supporters, particularly in the areas of oral history, preservation, audiovisual production, and management of small/rural libraries.

   c. Support travel and stipends for representatives in fieldwork and practice.

   d. Allow travel, honoraria, and housing for resource people to visit Native American libraries.

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that training and development programs and funds be provided for local community-based boards, volunteers, and Tribal members.

F. Information and Cultural Needs

1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Federal and Tribal programs providing support to organizations active in the area of cultural and historical preservation need to provide stronger financial, technical, and administrative support.

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Federal programs which depend on State-directed boards to administer grant applications should discontinue this process and
establish boards of Tribal people actively involved in similar programs and Tribal Elders to aid in grant application review.

3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Federal and Federally-funded programs which hold information about a specific Tribe provide copies of that material to the Tribe of origin, or, where adequate facilities exist, that arrangements be made for the return of the original material.

4. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that an inventory of Tribal resources and archives shall be conducted and continued on an ongoing basis, at both Tribal and off-Reservation libraries.

G. National Native Library Technical Assistance Center

1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress authorize the establishment of a National Native Library Technical Assistance Center and appropriate, adequate, ongoing funding to provide:

   a. Technical assistance in library operations, funding, grant
      writing, etc.
   b. Staff training, both on-site and remote.
   c. Information and referral via a toll free number.
   d. Monthly newsletter.
   e. Development and dissemination of training materials, such as manuals, videos.
   f. Materials on training, selection, and other professional issues.

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Center must be governed by a Board of Directors, with membership comprised of at least 60 percent Native Americans, whose purpose will be to serve the needs of Native American communities to improve library services and the advancement of information technology.

H. Dynamic Role of Native Libraries

1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that libraries and Native governments and communities be given resources to encourage matching library activities to community programs and priorities.

2. AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that Native American libraries be encouraged to institute innovative programs based on community needs.

I. Information Clearinghouse

1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a national clearinghouse and information center, with regional branches to allow networking within the Native American community, be established.
J. **International Cooperation**

1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that appropriate legislation be enacted and international agreements made, particularly with Canada, to permit open and speedy electronic and manual delivery of documents and services across boundaries, and

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that international cooperation be sought to facilitate access to appropriate foreign collections.

K. **State-Tribal Cooperation**

1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all States in which Reservations are located and/or have significant Native American populations be urged to promptly implement similar legislation.

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal government encourage, by legislation or policy, State governments to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Tribal governments and libraries, when desired and requested by the Native American people.

3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress encourage States to recognize Native American governments, organizations and libraries as direct recipients of State-administered funds allocated to library and information service programs.

4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Native Americans be represented on various policy boards and organizations at the local, State, and national level.

5. BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this initiative be accomplished in recognition and support of Native American sovereignty and developmental needs.

I. **Standards and Certification**

1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Congress should provide resources for Native American government organizations and libraries to come together to develop library standards, including personnel certification and staffing standards specific to their special program needs.

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should mandate that Federal and State agencies recognize Native American government-operated or organization-operated library information service certification and training programs as complying, for all purposes, with State or Federal standards.

M. **Government Library Relationships**

1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Congress of American Indians membership issue a policy statement supporting a priority for the role and needs of our libraries.
N.   **Private Sector**

1.   **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Indian pre-conference to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services promote and encourage foundations and businesses to assist in the development of Indian libraries.

O.   **Scholarships**

1.   **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Congress establish a scholarship or fellowship program for Native American individuals for baccalaureate or graduate degrees in library science or library management with certification.

2.   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress establish a scholarship or fellowship program for which Native Americans and organizations are eligible to enable the Native American entities to negotiate with schools of library science to provide specific academic programs to meet the special needs of Native American libraries and information centers. (PETITION 07)