

## **Resolution on the Library of Congress Management's Decision to Cease the Production of Series Authority Records**

**Whereas**, we represent concerned professionals who work in various arenas of librarianship, including acquisitions, cataloging, collection development, and reference who strongly oppose the recent decision by Library of Congress management to cease the production of series authority records (SARs), based on the extreme nature of the decision and the unilateral manner in which it was handed down without any opportunity for the staff and other concerned parties to voice their opinions; and

**Whereas**, we believe series authority work to be an effective, widely used, and valued means of bibliographic control in the library community that provides a crucial means of access for users, particularly in cases where different publishers use the same series names, as is often found, for example, in children's literature and law publishing; and

**Whereas**, we believe that SARs play a vital role in maintaining the integrity of our database by providing a place to record treatment decisions thereby clarifying the distinction between works in a monographic series and serials; and by connecting earlier and later names of the same series so that all titles in the series may be retrieved by users; and

**Whereas**, we believe that the failure to establish series authority records will result in a disorganized database, which will reflect poorly on the Library of Congress, cause confusion to users, and require additional problem-solving for catalogers in the future; and

**Whereas**, we are particularly worried about the new policy to "create a separate bibliographic record for all resources with distinctive titles published as parts of series," a policy of having to analyze and class separately works that are now parts of collected set records which will actually **increase** cost since the workload will dramatically be increased; and

**Whereas**, we recognize that keyword searching will always be a useful catalog tool, but believe that it cannot be considered a replacement for carefully established authority work, **especially** in the face of ongoing changes in the information technology environment; and

**Whereas**, we believe the decision to end the production of series authority records will erode the Library of Congress's role as a proponent of high standards for cataloging as well as its overall standing in the library profession, and

**Whereas**, we welcome opportunities to simplify the rules for the establishment and alteration of SARs and the possibilities for investigating other timesaving measures; and

**Whereas**, we share the concerns of over 3,400 colleagues in the library community who have urged the Library of Congress to retain the production of series authority records; therefore

**Be it resolved**, that the Guild Executive Board urges Library of Congress management to reconsider its decision and to continue the production of series authority records; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Guild Executive Board urges the Library of Congress, when making decisions with such great ramifications, to do so in a manner characterized by cooperation and participation, qualities so essential for the continued success of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Guild Executive Board urges the Library of Congress to maintain support of and advocacy for the highest standards of cataloging and access for all of the Library's constituencies, which remains one of its chief missions.

**Adopted by the Guild Executive Board (AFSCME Local 2910)  
May 11, 2006**

**See: [www.guild2910.org](http://www.guild2910.org)**