

**Submitted by the BCLA Information Policy Committee to the BCLA AGM,
Saturday, June 19, 2004**

A Resolution on Open Access

Whereas connecting users with the information they need is one of a library's most essential functions, and access to information is one of librarianship's most cherished values;

And whereas the scholarly publishing industry has been experiencing a cycle of price increases above inflation rates, leading to library cancellations, leading to further price increases, and so forth, with no relief in sight, and has thus negatively impacted access to research;

And whereas the Open Access alternative involves making peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles freely available over the Web through open access journals and/or author self-archiving;

And whereas British Columbia librarians and faculty are leaders in the Open Access movement, as exemplified by the Public Knowledge Project at UBC and the participation of BC academic libraries in SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Research Coalition);

And whereas the BCLA has already committed to making its publication, the *BCLA Reporter*, openly accessible once an online version is available;

And whereas the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) have declared support for Open Access;

Be it resolved that the BCLA formally declare its commitment to Open Access by signing onto one of: the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, the Budapest Open Access Initiative, or the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing, and;

Be it further resolved that the BCLA write a letter to the Premier, with copies to presidents of BC post-secondary institutions, applauding local leadership in Open Access, such as the Public Knowledge Project, the CARL Institutional Repository Project, and Library and Archives Canada's Theses Canada Portal, and;

Be it further resolved that the BCLA encourage the BC library community to support Open Access by cataloguing and providing access to open access journals and promoting awareness of Open Access, and that the BCLA encourage post-secondary institutions to formally declare their support by signing on to Open Access initiatives, and;

Be it further resolved that the BCLA educate the library community in BC about Open Access through articles in the *BCLA Reporter*, sessions at BCLA Conferences, and information on the BCLA web page.