



British Columbia  
Library Association

## Resolution Submission Form

Please email to [execdir@bcla.bc.ca](mailto:execdir@bcla.bc.ca) by April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

Please indicate **2013 Resolution – Title (the title of the Resolution!)** in the email subject line.

1. Title of Resolution	<b>Aaron Swartz Memorial Resolution</b>
2. Rationale / Purpose for Resolution	<b>Framework for remembering and honouring the life and work of Aaron Swartz, whose efforts to ensure the accessibility of information stand as an inspiration to the library community and the world.</b>
3. Prior History of this Resolution (IF ANY)	<b>N/A</b>
4. Body of the Resolution (Action Proposed)	<p>Whereas the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) and the broader community of those who support open access to published materials lost a valued colleague on January 11, 2013, with the tragic death of 26-year-old Aaron Swartz;</p> <p>Whereas Aaron Swartz was a tireless and outspoken advocate of intellectual freedom and the rights of individuals to freely access information;</p> <p>Whereas he was a team member of Creative Commons, a group that simplifies access to free copyright licenses for authors;</p> <p>Whereas Aaron Swartz founded the organization Demand Progress, which campaigned against the "Stop Online Piracy Act" (SOPA) and the Protect IP Act, thus contributing to the failure of the legislation;</p> <p>Whereas the international library community lost a leader who was the chief architect of Open Library.org – an online project that fostered collaboration with librarians and intended to "...build the world's greatest library, then put it up on the Internet free for all to use..." according to Swartz in a 2007 announcement of the project;</p> <p>Whereas Aaron Swartz was a member of a group that co-authored RSS 1.0 (also known as Really Simple Syndication) – a widely used Internet- based tool that enables publishers and users the ability to syndicate and/or manage digital data from multiple source points;</p> <p>Whereas he helped to create Reddit, Inc – a social news and entertainment site which holds the distinction of being the first social media site to be used by a sitting United States President (President Barack</p>



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	<p>Obama) to engage with voters in a live online question and answer session;</p> <p>Whereas Aaron Swartz was dedicated to the exploration and understanding of ethics, political action, and how to apply knowledge to improving people's lives, as demonstrated by his 2010-2011 tenure as a fellow at the Harvard University Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics ;</p> <p>Whereas Aaron Swartz was loved and respected by his family, friends, co-workers, and many individuals, both in the Canada and around the world; and</p> <p>Whereas his true legacy lies in the profound effect that he had on countless individuals and institutions to engage in critical conversations regarding the importance of open access and the dissolving of internet censorship; therefore be it</p> <p>Resolved, that the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) on behalf of its members;</p> <p>1. recognizes the significant contributions of Aaron Swartz over the course of his distinguished career and mourns his death;</p> <p>2. expresses its sincere sympathy to his family, loved ones, and colleagues throughout the world, and his many friends and admirers both within and outside of the library community; and</p> <p>3. encourages libraries and librarians to remain vigilant in protecting and extending the public domain, and to promoting and developing new means of providing access to and openly disseminating information</p>
5. Initiating Individual, Committee or Interest Group	<b>Information Policy Committee</b>
6. Mover's Name, Telephone and Email	<b>Myron Groover</b> ·   <a href="mailto:myron.groover@gmail.com">myron.groover@gmail.com</a>
7. Seconder's Name, Telephone and Email	<b>Jonathan Schatz</b> ·   <a href="mailto:jonathan.m.schatz@gmail.com">jonathan.m.schatz@gmail.com</a>
8. BCLA Committees / Interest Groups Consulted (IF ANY)	<b>Information Policy Committee</b>
9. Endorsement by BCLA Committees / Interest Groups (IF ANY)	<b>Information Policy Committee</b>
10. Fiscal Implications (IF ANY)	<b>n/a</b>
11. If this resolution necessitates a change in an existing bylaw, state the bylaw and the change. If this resolution proposes a new bylaw, please state	<b>n/a</b>



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the new bylaw. (Review BCLA Bylaws.)*	
12. If this resolution conflicts with an existing bylaw, state provisions for resolving the conflict.	<b>n/a</b>
13. If this resolution proposes a BCLA position statement, indicate the position's relation to libraries and library service.	

\* See <http://www.bcla.bc.ca/page/constitution%20and%20by-laws.aspx>