

**THE RIGHT TO READ - A POSITION STATEMENT**

*Adopted by Public Library Association Executive Board  
of the American Library Association on  
June 28, 1972, and Endorsed by  
Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners on December 14, 1972*

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The Public Library Association recognizes the immensity of the reading problem in the United States and its negative effect on the individual and on society as a whole. We recognize the responsibility of the public library to be in the forefront of the problem. *The Right to Read* has multiple facets, among them the accessibility of materials, the right to know, the search for effective motivation, the shortage of usable materials, the need for tutoring and the necessary tutors, and continuing realization and reminder of the enormity of the handicap suffered by the non-literate.

The Public Library Association pledges its strong support to *The Right to Read* program, and it encourages any and all enlightened efforts toward the goal set for the end of the seventies: Realization of *The Right to Read* for every citizen of the United States. It urges the public library to familiarize itself with *The Right to Read* goals and programs, to participate in existing efforts in each community or to initiate such efforts, and to cooperate fully with other concerned individuals and organizations.

Massachusetts Bureau of Library Extension  
648 Beacon Street  
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