



RESOLUTION ON MONETARY LIBRARY FINES AND FEES
AS A FORM OF SOCIAL INEQUITY

WHEREAS, monetary fines and fees do not serve the core mission of publicly supported libraries to provide free and equal access for all people of their community;

WHEREAS, monetary fines and fees present an economic barrier to library information, materials, services, and programs;

WHEREAS, monetary fines and fees effectively reinforce distinctions among community members based on the ability to pay;

WHEREAS, monetary fines and fees limit library card adoption and library usage;

WHEREAS, monetary fines and fees create a negative impact on community and public relations;

WHEREAS, monetary fines and fees absorb valuable staff time applying, collecting, and managing dues; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the Pioneer Library System states “Everyone has access to exceptional library services and learning opportunities through their local library¹,” now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Pioneer Library System, on behalf of its Board of Trustees affirms the “Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity” of the American Library Association² and endorsement of such resolution by New York Library Association³;

RESOLVED, that the Pioneer Library System implores libraries to scrutinize their practices of imposing fines and fees on library patrons;

RESOLVED, that the Pioneer Library System urges governing bodies of libraries to strengthen funding support for libraries so they are not dependent on monetary fines and fees as a necessary source of revenue; and

RESOLVED, that the Pioneer Library System encourages libraries, guided by the Core Values of Librarianship⁴ and the Library Bill of Rights^{5,6}, to actively move toward eliminating monetary fines and fees and provide free and equitable library services to all people of their community.

Revised: March 20, 2021; September 9, 2020

Adopted: June 12, 2019

¹ “Pioneer Library System Strategic Plan 2020-2022.” PLS, 7 Aug. 2019, https://pls-net.org/sites/default/files/Strategic%20Plan%202019-2020%20-%20Approved_2.pdf

² “Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity.” ALA, 27 Jan. 2019, www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/council/council_documents/2019_ms_council_docs/ALA%20CD%2038%20RESOLUTION%20ON%20MONETARY%20LIBRARY%20FINES%20AS%20A%20FORM%20OF%20SOCIAL%20JUSTICE%20Revised%201_27_0.pdf

³ “NYLA Council Endorses the ALA Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity.” NYLA, 31 Jan. 2019, www.nyla.org/max/4DCGI/cms/review.html?Action=CMS_Document&DocID=2819&MenuKey=eBulletin.

⁴ “Core Values of Librarianship.” ALA, Jan. 2019, www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/corevalues.

⁵ “Library Bill of Rights.” ALA, 19 Jun. 1939 adopted, 29 Jan. 2019 revised, www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill.

⁶ “Library-Initiated Programs and Displays as a Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights.” ALA, 27 Jan. 1982 adopted, 24 Jun. 2019 revised, www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/programsdisplays.