

# Legislative Finding

The (California) Legislature finds and declares that it is in the interest of the people of the state to insure that all people have free and convenient access to all library resources and services that might enrich their lives, regardless of where they live or of the tax base of their local government.

This finding is based on the recognition that:

- (a) The public library is a primary source of information, recreation, and education to persons of all ages, any location or any economic circumstance.
- (b) The expansion of knowledge and the increasing complexity of our society create needs for materials and information that go beyond the ability of any one library to provide.
- (c) The public libraries of California are supported primarily by local taxes. The ability of local governments to provide adequate service is dependent on the taxable wealth of each local jurisdiction and varies widely throughout the state.
- (d) Public libraries are unable to bear the greater costs of meeting the exceptional needs of many residents, including people with disabilities, non-English-speaking and limited-English-speaking persons, those who are confined to home or in an institution, and those who are economically disadvantaged.
- (e) The effective sharing of resources and services among the libraries of California requires an ongoing commitment by the state to compensate libraries for services beyond their clientele.
- (f) The sharing of services and resources is most efficient when a common database is available to provide information on where materials can be found.

## Legislative intent

It is the intent of the Legislature to provide all residents with the opportunity to obtain from their public libraries needed materials and informational services by facilitating access to the resources of all libraries in this state.

This policy shall be accomplished by assisting public libraries to improve service to the underserved of all ages, and by enabling public libraries to provide their users with the services and resources of all libraries in this state.