

RESOLUTION ON U.S. SUPREME COURT SLIP OPINIONS

- Whereas, In June 2002, the U.S. Government Printing Office ended print distribution of U.S. Supreme Court *Slip Opinions* to federal depository libraries; and,
- Whereas, The law library community is very concerned that the Government Printing Office may similarly cease print depository distribution of Supreme Court *Preliminary Prints*, officially known as *Official Reports of the Supreme Court*; and,
- Whereas, The Government Printing Office is relying instead on public access to the electronic versions of the *Slip Opinions* and *Official Reports* on the Supreme Court's Web site, despite the fact that the electronic versions of these titles are neither official nor authoritative; and,
- Whereas, The print versions of these publications are the only official and authoritative versions of Supreme Court decisions prior to the publication of the *United States Reports*; and,
- Whereas, The distribution of the print versions of Supreme Court *Slip Opinions* and *Official Reports* to depository libraries in fact meets the requirements for tangible distribution to depository libraries, as defined in *Superintendent of Documents Policy Statement 71*, sections 4. b. and e; and,
- Whereas, The *United States Reports*, the final, official version of U.S. Supreme Court decisions superseding the *Slip Opinions* and *Official Reports*, is currently the only one of these three important titles on the Government Printing Office's list of *Essential Titles for Public Use in Paper Formats*; and,
- Whereas, The publication and distribution to depository libraries of the *United States Reports* is delayed, thus depriving depository library users of the official and authoritative version of Supreme Court opinions for many years; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the U.S. Government Printing Office should reinstate the option for depository libraries to select the print U.S. Supreme Court *Slip Opinions* because the electronic version is neither authoritative nor official, and like many other legal resources, the *Slip Opinions* are of significant reference value to most types of depository libraries; and be it further
- Resolved, That the U.S. Government Printing Office should add *Slip Opinions* and *Official Reports of the Supreme Court* to the list of *Essential Titles for Public Use in Paper Format*; and be it further
- Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to AALL's Washington Office and the Depository Library Council for further action.