



## ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

### **ARL STATEMENT ON UNLIMITED USE AND EXCHANGE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORDS**

The Association of Research Libraries is fully committed to the principle of unrestricted access to and dissemination of ideas. In order to achieve this goal, member libraries must have unlimited access to the machine readable bibliographic records which are created by member libraries and maintained in bibliographic utilities. This body of machine readable bibliographic records is not only an international resource of inestimable value in its own right, but is also which are developed and preserved by member libraries.

Unrestricted access to bibliographic records which are widely accessible on a timely basis and adhere to recognized standards underlies the efforts of research libraries to organize library materials for use and has significant economic benefits for research libraries and their users. Timely, efficient and economically sound programs to preserve materials depend on access to bibliographic data and accompanying documentation. Coordinated collection development programs and shared resources programs are also based on unlimited bibliographic access which ultimately enables information to be made available for scholars who use research libraries.

For these reasons the Association of Research Libraries believes that systems of scholarly communication will be made more effective when bibliographic records are available to librarians and scholars regardless of the system in which they reside. The Association recognizes that it is not possible to create a wholly unfettered, flawless, timely and complete body of bibliographic records. Nevertheless, the Association of Research Libraries, through its Committees and Task Forces, will continue to identify barriers to the unlimited use and exchange of bibliographic data - we call upon others to work with us toward overcoming those barriers which exist.

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