

Jan. 29th, 1901

Mr. Alexander Graham Bell,
1331 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Bell:

I wish to thank you for your courtesy in sending me a copy of the resolution offered and adopted by the regents. This goes a long way to solve the problem on which we are working.

Very truly yours,

W. R. Harper

Jan. 25th, 1901

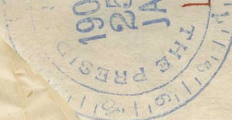
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1521 Connecticut Avenue,
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Handwritten in red ink:
25
1901
Jan 25
1901
Mr. A. G. Bell



1331 Connecticut Avenue,

Washington, D.C., January 23, 1901.

President Harper,

Chicago University, Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Sir: --

At a meeting of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution held this morning, I offered the enclosed Resolution which was unanimously adopted.

The Resolution will be presented to Congress as a memorial from the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

I also enclose a printed copy of the Joint Resolution approved by Congress April 12, 1892. I shall be glad of any suggestions as to the next step to be taken.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Graham Bell

2 Enclosures.



1331 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D.C., January 23, 1901.

President Herper,

Chicago University, Chicago, Illinois.

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Yours sincerely,

William Graham Bell

2 Enclosures.

RESOLUTION

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

JANUARY 23, 1901.

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In order to facilitate the utilization of the Government Departments for the purposes of research - in extension of the policy enunciated by Congress in the Joint Resolution approved April 12, 1892: -

RESOLVED: That it is the sense of the Board that it is desirable that Congress extend this resolution so as to afford facilities for study to all properly qualified students or graduates of universities, other than those mentioned in the resolution, and provide for the appointment of an officer whose duty it shall be to ascertain and make known what facilities for research exist in the Government Departments, and arrange with the heads of the Departments, and with the officers in charge of Government collections, on terms satisfactory to them, rules and regulations under which suitably qualified persons might have access to these collections for the purpose of research with due regard to the needs and requirements of the work of the Government; and that it should also be his duty to direct, in a manner satisfactory to the heads of such Departments and officers in charge, the researches of such persons into lines which will promote the interests of the Government and the development of the natural resources, agriculture, manufactures, and commerce of the country, and (generally) promote the progress of science and the useful arts, and the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.

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RESOLUTION

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

JANUARY 28, 1891.

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In order to facilitate the utilization of the Government Departments for the purposes of research - in extension of the policy enunciated by Congress in the Joint Resolution approved April 12, 1892: -

RESOLVED: That it is the sense of the Board that it is desirable that Congress extend this resolution so as to afford facilities for study to all properly qualified students or graduates of universities, other than those mentioned in the resolution, and provide for the appointment of an officer whose duty it shall be to ascertain and make known what facilities for research exist in the Government Departments, and arrange with the heads of the Departments, and with the officers in charge of Government collections, on terms satisfactory to them, rules and regulations under which suitably qualified persons might have access to these collections for the purpose of research with due regard to the needs and requirements of the work of the Government; and that it should also be his duty to direct, in a manner satisfactory to the heads of such Departments and officers in charge, the researchers of such persons into lines which will promote the interests of the Government and the development of the natural resources, agriculture, manufactures, and commerce of the country, and (generally) promote the progress of science and the useful arts, and the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.

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[PUBLIC RESOLUTION—No. 8.]

Joint resolution to encourage the establishment and endowment of institutions of learning at the national capital by defining the policy of the Government with reference to the use of its literary and scientific collections by students.

Whereas, large collections illustrative of the various arts and sciences and facilitating literary and scientific research have been accumulated by the action of Congress through a series of years at the national capital; and

Whereas it was the original purpose of the Government thereby to promote research and the diffusion of knowledge, and is now the settled policy and present practice of those charged with the care of these collections specially to encourage students who devote their time to the investigation and study of any branch of knowledge by allowing to them all proper use thereof; and

Whereas it is represented that the enumeration of these facilities and the formal statement of this policy will encourage the establishment and endowment of institutions of learning at the seat of Government, and promote the work of education by attracting students to avail themselves of the advantages aforesaid under the direction of competent instructors: Therefore,

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the facilities for research and illustration in the following and any other Governmental collections now existing or hereafter to be established in the city of Washington for the promotion of knowledge shall be accessible, under such rules and restrictions as the officers in charge of each collection may prescribe, subject to such authority as is now or may hereafter be permitted by law, to the scientific investigators and to students of any institution of higher education now incorporated or hereafter to be incorporated under the laws of Congress or of the District of Columbia, to wit:

- One. Of the Library of Congress.
- Two. Of the National Museum.
- Three. Of the Patent Office.
- Four. Of the Bureau of Education.
- Five. Of the Bureau of Ethnology.
- Six. Of the Army Medical Museum.
- Seven. Of the Department of Agriculture.
- Eight. Of the Fish Commission.
- Nine. Of the Botanic Gardens.
- Ten. Of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.
- Eleven. Of the Geological Survey.
- Twelve. Of the Naval Observatory.

Approved, April 12, 1892.

