

Resolution in Opposition of the Proposed Name Change to the Rutgers School of Communication, Information and Library Studies

WHEREAS, the Faculty of the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies has voted to change the name to School of Communication and Information, and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Library Association respectfully acknowledges the right of SCILS to determine its own direction, and

WHEREAS, the name SCILS has come to be associated with excellence in educating and producing librarians, library administrators, and library leaders for this noble profession, and

WHEREAS, libraries are vital institutions providing essential services to the constituents they serve, even more so during these difficult economic times, and

WHEREAS, the term “Library” is our profession’s brand; our services, free books and media, database access, youth services, along with cultural and educational opportunities are unique to libraries, and the term library uniquely identifies what we do and is immediately understandable, and

WHEREAS, conversely the term “information” is broad, and is associated with the work of programmers, hardware administrators, network developers and maintainers, and belongs to the world of technical education, and

WHEREAS, the name change at this particular time has implications far beyond the School, and

WHEREAS, the deletion of the name does not clarify but rather obfuscate the purpose of the school:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association urges the Faculty, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Board of Governors, Board of Trustees and President of Rutgers to reconsider their decision and retain the word Library in the name of the School.

Adopted February 17, 2009