

**ALA Committee on Legislation
Report to Council
2014 Annual Conference – Las Vegas, Nevada**

**Vivian Wynn
Chair, ALA Committee on Legislation
July 01, 2014**

Committee on Legislation highlights of 2014:

1. Federal Legislative Advocacy Group: In response to the Executive Board's call for three priorities: advocacy, information policy and professional development; COL enthusiastically established a subcommittee to support a new strategic advocacy network, the "Federal Legislative Advocacy Group" (FLAG). FLAG will develop a cadre of library advocates in key congressional districts and states across the country who will respond quickly to urgent issues supporting ALA's federal legislative and policy agenda. OGR staff will work with the subcommittee to provide background and talking points on urgent federal legislative issues as well as assist in coaching and supporting advocates in their lobbying efforts. Part of this mission is implementing a better way to enhance the grassroots lobbying of Senate and House members on the important committees addressing library issues.
2. Network neutrality: Network neutrality has been a major focus over the last six months for the Committee on Legislation. The committee has communicated with other parts of the association, sharing principles, background information and strategies to move forward. During this conference a program with Gigi Sohn, a senior official from the Federal Communications Commission was presented. In addition the ALA Washington Office has worked with ALA leadership to create strong messaging as they comment to the media. COL has written a resolution that is included in this report as an action item.
3. Legislation Assembly: To enhance ALA's advocacy efforts around federal legislation, COL has been working with the Legislation Assembly to increase the participation and the quality of information we receive from divisions and round tables so that we can advocate more strongly around their issues of concern. A communications method has been initiated to facilitate input from the units. We encourage all divisions, units and round tables to assign a representative to the Assembly and communicate their legislative interests to the Committee on Legislation. A series of conference calls and emails have enhanced the ability for two way communication about federal activity.
4. Federal Depository Library Program Taskforce: COL would like to thank the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Task Force for their work over the last two years. In particular the committee thanks Chair Maggie Farrell. We would also like to thank Anne Elias, Janet Fischer, Lori Goetsch, Mary Mallory, Bruce Sarjeant, Laura Saur, Robbie Sittel, and ALA staff member Jessica McGilvray for all of their hard work over the last two years.

The Task Force met monthly for over two years with two meetings a month when required (approximately 30 meetings). In addition, the Task Force spent numerous hours working on writing assignments and online discussions in between meetings. This heavy workload likely amounts to each individual Task Force member contributing over 60 hours of work toward this effort. The recommendations within the Task Force report provide COL a solid framework to move forward with their work on this issue and further consensus building.

COL and the Office of Government Relations:

In COL's monthly phone calls with the ALA Office of Government Relations (OGR), OGR staff regularly reports on their work with relevant coalitions, growing relationships with key staff at other organizations and working with staff and elected representatives on Capitol Hill.

Utilizing the resolutions passed by the ALA Council and past ALA policy, COL and OGR work to advance the interests of libraries before the federal government. This is done in various ways: face to face meetings with Congressional staff and/or elected officials, face to face meetings with executive branch officials, letters, conference calls, etc. On some issues, discussions address litigation as well.

The decision on what method of communication to use is decided by the stage of an issue or bill. It is not always helpful to send a mass alert or visit all offices – it can at times be preferable to send a letter and follow up when the bill is moving or target specific offices at specific times to ensure that our message is reaching the right people. Additionally, on essentially all issues, OGR participates in many coalitions in developing strategies and messaging, conducting joint lobbying and coordinating grassroots advocacy.

The Office of Government Relations, in conjunction with COL, conducts a wide array of advocacy activities. OGR recently upgraded advocacy software, replacing Capwiz with a system called Engage. Engage allows OGR to send out action alert emails to ALA members, post alerts to an online "Legislative Action Center", and much more. Engage joins Mobile Commons which allows OGR to reach advocates on their mobile devices and contact legislators directly. COL and its Grassroots Advocacy subcommittee actively support OGR by taking the lead on action alerts and sharing them with membership groups. COL also advises OGR on the best tactics for reaching a wider audience with advocacy related programming and activities.

COL's Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Task Force:

The Task Force presented their final report to COL and during the 2014 Annual conference, COL formally accepted it. The Task Force reported on the very successful open dialogue on Saturday, January 25th, during the ALA Midwinter conference. Approximately 70 participants discussed ways in which ALA would advance a plan as well as the role of ALA in speaking to FDLP concerns. The open dialogue complements both the online survey and the request to ALA units to formally submit comments. All three strategies utilized the same set of questions and provided the Task Force with member insight into the FDLP and preservation. The goal of the Task Force was to seek broad perspectives among the divisions, roundtables, and units within ALA in order to develop recommendations. Based on the [2013 Report](http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/ALA-COL-FDLP-Task-Force-Report-FINAL.pdf) (<http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/ALA-COL-FDLP-Task-Force-Report-FINAL.pdf>) and the 2014 Survey Summary, the Task Force made the following recommendations in their final [report](http://connect.ala.org/node/225622) (<http://connect.ala.org/node/225622>) to COL.

Recommendations:

- A. *The Task Force reasserts their recommendations from their 2013 Report. After an additional year of examining associated issues of the FDLP and ALA processes, the Task Force believes our recommendations are valid and deserve full consideration of COL and ALA.*
- B. The ALA community recognizes the value of government information and the many roles and contributions of all ALA units in the advancement of government information. FDLP resources and services are important to many ALA units; not just GODORT. There is broad interest in the success of the FDLP and ALA units should be consulted and included in the development of ALA policies. For instance, ALCTS' expertise should be utilized when considering FDLP metadata and collection

issues. GODORT within ALA can facilitate and lead broader conversations by including other ALA units in the formation of recommendations and strategies to advance FDLP.

The relationship between ALA and its units, specifically GODORT for FDLP issues, should be a collaborative and respectful relationship drawing on the strengths of ALA for advocacy and national policy while utilizing specialized units for expertise on processes and implementation of ALA policies. This balance is possible through mutual respect and strong, frequent communication. (See 2013 Recommendation #15)

C. *ALA should take on a facilitative role in the development of a national preservation plan and other national initiatives. This leadership role includes facilitating partnerships and strategies that advance the FDLP.*

D. *Government information is broadly used by all libraries therefore it is essential that librarians and library workers are competent in the use of FDLP resources and services. GODORT in partnership with other ALA units should develop competencies for inclusion within the ALA Core Competencies of Librarianship. (See 2013 Recommendation #13)*

COL took part in an extensive discussion regarding the Resolution on Preserving Public Access to Scientific and Technical Reports Available Through the National Technical Information Service during this conference. COL took action to table this resolution until Midwinter 2015 and instructed the Government Information Subcommittee to continue work on this issue. COL has encouraged the ALA WO staff to continue their efforts with Congress and the federal government agency affected by this resolution.

COL brings two action items to Council:

The first resolution is CD#20.6 (2012-2013 ALA CD#49):

During Annual 2013, Council Document 49, *Resolution on Digitization of U.S. Government Documents* was referred to COL. During the Midwinter 2014 conference, COL discussed the issue surrounding the resolution and moved that they would defer action on CD 49 until the Federal Depository Library Program Task Force completed its work as CD 49 directly related to the work of the task force. As mentioned above, the Task Force has submitted their final report and COL has included a revised resolution, CD 20.6.

COL requests that the following resolution be adopted in lieu of CD 49 that was referred to COL in 2013.

Resolution on Digitization of U.S. Government Documents

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. supports and encourages a national preservation plan for Federal Depository Library Program materials;
2. encourages policies that promote digitization with a reasonable number of dispersed preserved copies of print FDLP materials;
3. supports technologies that guarantee long-term, robust, verifiable, complete, accurate, authentic, preservable, and usable digital formats;
4. works with the Government Printing Office (GPO) and the FDL community on developing procedures to

authenticate and ingest digital and digitized content into FDsys from federal depository libraries and federal agencies; and

5. supports the creation of a no-fee, searchable, online inventory of digital and digitized government materials with downloadable metadata.

The second resolution is CD#20.7:

Resolution Reaffirming Support for National Open Internet Policies and “Network Neutrality”

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. reaffirms its support for network neutrality and open Internet policies that enable access in the library, through remote access to library resources, or by other means;
2. calls on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to codify network neutrality principles following its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), Docket Number 14-28;
3. encourages library supporters to become engaged in the FCC’s current Notice of a Proposed Rulemaking on network neutrality; and
4. urges library supporters to advocate for the development of enforceable policies, whether in legislative proposals or regulatory proceedings, that ensure that the Internet remains an open platform for activities such as information exchange, intellectual discourse, civic engagement, creativity, innovation, and learning.

Additionally, COL brings to you the following information item:

At COL’s last business meeting, COL unanimously endorsed “Copyright: An Interpretation of the Code of Ethics” brought forth by the Committee on Professional Ethics.

Subcommittee reports:

Copyright

The COL Copyright Subcommittee held one meeting at the 2014 Annual Conference. Subcommittee members spent a majority of the meeting discussing an “Interpretation” of the copyright section of the Professional Code of Ethics brought forth by the Committee on Professional Ethics. Members made several suggested revisions to the Committee on Professional Ethics, endorsed the document in principle, and sent it to COL for further approval. The remaining time was spent with ALA staff briefing the subcommittee on the various copyright reform efforts before the USPTO, the U.S. Copyright Office, and Congress.

E-Government Services

The subcommittee on E-Government Services met once during the ALA Annual 2014 conference. The members discussed updates needed for the E-Government Toolkit and what activities they should focus on in the coming year. They also discussed possible webinar ideas for the subcommittee as well as the series of e-

government webinars that will continue to be held in the coming months by ALA and iPAC at the University of Maryland. The subcommittee will continue to hold monthly conference calls to their work.

Government Information

The Government Information Subcommittee (GIS) held two meetings at ALA Annual 2014 conference. The first meeting was held jointly with the Government Documents Round Table's (GODORT) Legislation Committee. During this meeting the committees heard from; Mary Alice Baish and Cindy Etkin from the Government Printing Office (GPO) regarding GPO's National Plan for the Future of the FDLP, Maggie Farrell regarding the COL FDLP Task Force's final report and Wayne Strickland from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). At the conclusion of these updates and subsequent discussions, the committees turned their attention to and endorsed the resolution on preserving public access to scientific and technical reports available through the NTIS. The subcommittee will continue to hold regular conference calls.

Grassroots

The COL Grassroots Advocacy Subcommittee held two meetings at the 2014 Annual Conference. At the first meeting the group was briefed on the new Federal Legislative Advocacy Group (FLAG). The subcommittee then analyzed the 2014 National Library Legislative Day and discussed ways to improve future legislative days. Members were shown the new ALA Legislative Action Center and examples of how other organizations are using the same advocacy software as ALA. The subcommittee then received flash drive copies of Stephanie Vance's new report, "Speak Out", a summary of ALA advocacy resources. Members will submit comments to Stephanie and COL by the end of the summer. At the second meeting, members recapped the existing advocacy resources of the ALA Washington Office and ways to promote them. It was decided that by Midwinter, the subcommittee will develop a power point presentation that members can use in their conference meetings to highlight advocacy initiatives and resources.

Legislation Assembly

The Legislation Assembly met Monday morning of the 2014 ALA Annual Conference. At this meeting, the staff provided a legislative update to the assembly. The assembly received an update from the units with a representative in attendance including an update on resolutions being worked on at this conference; including COL's net neutrality resolution. Finally, assembly members were encouraged to submit 2014-15 representative from their units to the Washington Office.

Telecommunications:

The Committee on Legislation (COL) Subcommittee on Telecommunications met on Saturday afternoon at the 2014 ALA Annual Conference. At this meeting the subcommittee discussed several relevant issues including, but not limited to, the federal E-rate program and net neutrality. Furthermore, the subcommittee reviewed a draft of the net neutrality resolution being worked on by the COL Committee. Finally, the subcommittee heard an update of COL by COL member Charles Forest.

The COL Telecommunications Subcommittee also met in a joint meeting with the Office of Information Technology Policy (OITP) Subcommittee on Telecommunications. At this meeting the two subcommittees examined, in great detail, the E-rate program and net neutrality.

This resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on July 1, 2014

Resolution on Digitization of U.S. Government Documents

Whereas the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) was designed to provide public access to government information through a cooperative network of depository libraries;

Whereas designated FDLP libraries have successfully preserved and provided access to government information for more than two hundred years;

Whereas the historic paper FDLP collections contain valuable, irreplaceable information and remain critical for concrete representation and analysis of the policies, procedures, and workings of the Federal government and the United States as a whole;

Whereas digitization technologies provide opportunities to enhance access to and utilization of printed collections;

Whereas FDLP libraries and the Government Printing Office (GPO) remain committed to providing preservation of, access to, and services for valuable government information in all formats;

Whereas the reliability, functional utility, and preservability of digitized documents varies tremendously depending on the processes used in the digitization; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. supports and encourages a national preservation plan for Federal Depository Library Program materials
2. encourages policies that promote digitization with a reasonable number of dispersed preserved copies of print FDLP materials;
3. supports technologies that guarantee long-term, robust, verifiable, complete, accurate, authentic, preservable, and usable digital formats;
4. works with the Government Printing Office (GPO) and the FDL community on developing procedures to authenticate and ingest digital and digitized content into FDsys from federal depository libraries and federal agencies; and
5. supports the creation of a no-fee, searchable, online inventory of digital and digitized government materials with downloadable metadata.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council
Tuesday, July 1, 2014, in Las Vegas, Nevada

This resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on July 1, 2014

Resolution Reaffirming Support for National Open Internet Policies and “Network Neutrality”

Whereas America’s libraries “preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, options, and ideas” (53:8);

Whereas the Internet now serves as a platform for information exchange, intellectual discourse, civic engagement, creativity, research, innovation, and learning;

Whereas the terms “network neutrality” and “open Internet” refer to the use of high-speed Internet, including broadband, to deliver any content or to facilitate the use of any service in a neutral fashion without a preferential structure favoring some providers of content or services to the detriment of other providers;

Whereas public concerns are being raised that Internet service providers have incentives to restrict Internet openness and may act on these incentives in ways that would unconstitutionally burden freedoms of speech and assembly, and inhibit civic engagement, educational achievement, and economic growth;

Whereas the January 14, 2014, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit decision in *Verizon v. FCC* overturned the Open Internet Order and other Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules protecting net neutrality, this ruling, if it stands will fundamentally changes the open nature of the Internet;

Whereas the FCC has initiated a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) with Docket Number 14-28 and deadlines for public comment set for July 15, 2014, and reply comments by September 10, 2014;

Whereas America’s libraries, collect, create, and disseminate essential information to the public over the Internet, and serve as critical resources for individuals to access, create, and distribute content;

Whereas the American Library Association has long advocated for Internet policies that assure access to the widest possible variety of constitutionally protected content and services; and

Whereas network neutrality is essential to ensuring open and nondiscriminatory access to Internet content and services; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

5. reaffirms its support for network neutrality and open Internet policies that enable access in the library, through remote access to library resources, or by other means;
6. calls on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to codify network neutrality principles following its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), Docket Number 14-28;

7. encourages library supporters to become engaged in the FCC's current Notice of a Proposed Rulemaking on network neutrality; and
8. urges library supporters to advocate for the development of enforceable policies, whether in legislative proposals or regulatory proceedings, that ensure that the Internet remains an open platform for activities such as information exchange, intellectual discourse, civic engagement, creativity, innovation, and learning.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



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Endorsed by:
The Intellectual Freedom Committee
Association of College and Research Libraries
Library Research Round Table
Office of Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee

Policy history:
Original resolution endorsed by ALA Council 6/28/06
See also: Policy: 53.8, 50.15 and CD #50, 6/26/84

We refer you to the *ALA Office of Government Relations Six-Month Report* that gives you additional background information about ALA's federal legislative activities since Midwinter 2014.

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
Six-Month Report
January 1–June 1, 2014

Policy Discussions Continue at ALA Midwinter Meeting

Large numbers of attendees participated in policy sessions hosted by the ALA Washington Office at the 2014 ALA Midwinter Meeting, including conference sessions that explored E-rate funding, copyright lawsuits, ebook access, federal depository libraries and internet filtering. More than one hundred attendees gathered to hear insider information on last June’s National Security Agency leak from *Guardian* Editor Spencer Ackerman. During other ALA Washington Office sessions, publishing and library experts discussed the best ways libraries can bring together authors and readers in the digital age. In one copyright session, Google Legal Counsel Fred von Lohmann discussed the Google Book Search lawsuit court ruling. Finally, library and policy leaders at the conference detailed ALA’s vision for an E-rate 2.0 that better serves America’s libraries and communities.

ALA Washington Office Launches Video Advocacy Campaign

In January, the ALA Washington Office launched “Libraries Matter,” a series of four videos that highlight the ways that funds from the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) are used by libraries to help patrons. LSTA funds are used to support digital literacy, high-speed internet access, small business assistance, job assistance, ebooks and classes for New Americans. The visual videos can be used by library advocates to educate policymakers and Capitol Hill staff about library issues and show legislators the ways that libraries impact their communities. Access the videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5E1ShbPqE4CQ1v86FXWJfZLSjSaXngIM>.

ALA Prepares to Help Protect the Open Internet via Net Neutrality

On January 14, 2014, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled to strike down most of the Open Internet Order, giving commercial companies the astounding legal authority to block Internet traffic, offer preferential treatment to certain Internet services or applications, and steer users to certain web sites based on their own commercial interests. In response, Barbara Stripling published an op-ed, titled “[Why Net Neutrality’s Demise Hurts the Poor Most](#),” in *Wired* magazine, which received a tremendous amount of technology policy and library media coverage. Later, ALA with ARL and EDUCAUSE sent a letter to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, offering to work with the FCC in developing new policies that preserve network neutrality and incorporate the essential roles libraries play in this area.

ALA, the Association of Research Libraries and EDUCAUSE followed up with key FCC staff and shared the perspective of education, research and learning organizations and examples of what’s at stake for our community and our users. Beyond the most basic challenges to equitable access to information and intellectual freedom, higher education and libraries are generators and subscribers of critical educational and cultural content that could suffer under a two-tier or “fast-lane” approach to network neutrality.

In May, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to open a new Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on ensuring the Open Internet. The American Library Association will actively engage—with ALA members, with library allies, with the FCC and with Congress, if needed—in this vital proceeding.

Office of Government Relations Director Lynne Bradley was interviewed by *The Washington Post* for the feature article “Why the death of net neutrality would be a disaster for libraries”:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-switch/wp/2014/05/16/why-the-death-of-net-neutrality-would-be-a-disaster-for-libraries/>.

The ALA Washington Office asks that libraries email the ALA Washington Office (lclark@alawash.org) examples of Internet Service Provider (ISP) slowdowns, lost quality of service relative to subscribed ISP speeds, and any other harm related to serving community needs.

Washington Office Hosts Press Briefing at National Press Club

On May 6, 2014, the American Library Association hosted “Responding to the Second Digital Divide,” a National Press Club briefing that explored the ways that governments, schools and communities can better support libraries in bridging the growing skills-based digital divide. Panel leaders detailed effective tactics to sustain and improve Internet accessibility in libraries and discuss future directions for public access to information. The event coincided with the release of data showing that the digital divide is expanding, affecting far more than the disconnected—according to the report, one-fifth of people with advanced online access have insufficient levels of digital skills. Panelists included Clarence Anthony, executive director, of National League of Cities; John B. Horrigan, communications and technology policy consultant; Richard Reyes-Gavilan, executive director, District of Columbia Public Library; and Barbara Stripling, president, American Library Association.

The Washington Office Welcomes Adam Eisgrau

In April, former ALA Washington Office colleague Adam Eisgrau returned to the American Library Association. He is a veteran intellectual property and privacy policy lobbyist and joined the ALA’s copyright and privacy advocacy efforts to increase visibility for library issues on a national level. As Congress takes renewed interest in copyright law, privacy measures and surveillance reform, Eisgrau will use his extensive background on these issues to increase the association’s presence in Washington and educate lawmakers on the issues libraries face in championing the information rights and needs of the public.

Presidential Contender Sen. Jim Webb to address ALA Annual Conference

The midterm elections are steadily approaching, and libraries need to be prepared. Want to learn more about how the November elections will affect libraries? Don’t miss this year’s “Washington Update” session at the ALA Annual Conference, where former Virginia Senator Jim Webb will detail the upcoming national election season and the ways that libraries and library funding will be affected. Called a “potential presidential candidate” by *The Washington Post*, Webb has been a combat Marine, a counsel in Congress, an assistant secretary of defense and Secretary of the Navy, an Emmy-award winning journalist, an accomplished filmmaker and an author of ten books. The session takes place on Saturday, June 28, 2014, from 8:30–10:00 a.m. in the Las Vegas Convention Center N259/261.

ALA Active on Surveillance and Privacy Issues

Earlier in January, ALA President Barbara Stripling released a statement regarding a speech President Barack Obama made on the National Security Agency surveillance program. In her statement, Stripling called for permanent changes to the NSA data collection program and repeated her support for the USA

Freedom Act, a bill that will improve the balance between terrorism prevention and personal privacy protection. In February, ALA participated in the Day We Fight Back, a day when thousands of websites hosted banners urging people to call Congress to stop mass surveillance.

ALA continues to work closely and aggressively in tandem with partners in several coalitions to reform the multiple statutes that provide the government with various forms of surveillance and investigatory authority. In May, the House of Representatives passed a version of the USA FREEDOM Act intended to end the “dragnet”-style collection of Americans’ phone records by the government, but did not go far enough to protect citizens’ privacy. As a result, ALA President Barbara Stripling released a statement responding to the passage of the USA Freedom Act.

In June, [ALA joined more than 30 other civil liberties and privacy organizations](#) in writing to key Members of the Senate to support the modification of the USA FREEDOM Act so that it truly ends the “bulk collection” of telephone business records, and builds transparency and additional oversight into court-approved surveillance activities. The Senate Judiciary Committee is expected to take up the measure within two to three weeks. In addition, the ALA Washington Office sent legislative action alerts to nearly 5,000 subscribers in 22 key Congressional districts urging them to ask their Representative to cosponsor the Email Privacy Act, a bill that updates the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) to require a warrant to search Americans’ stored emails, texts, Facebook pages and cloud-stored data of all kinds.

Hundreds Gather for 40th Annual National Library Legislative Day

Hundreds of library supporters from across the country met with their members of Congress from May 5–6, 2014, to advocate for library funding during the American Library Association’s 40th annual National Library Legislative Day. Senator Angus King (I-ME) jumpstarted the event by addressing library advocates at the opening briefing, which took place on Monday, May 5, 2014, at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, D.C. Additional speakers included Maine State Librarian Linda Lord; Gabriel Rottman, legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union; Shawn Daugherty, assistant director of SPARC; and Peter Jaszi, professor of law at the American University Washington College of Law. Library supporters who could not attend the Washington meetings connected virtually with legislators via phone calls, emails and social media platforms.

During National Library Legislative Day, the American Library Association named Mary Lynn Collins, a library trustee from Frankfort, Ky., the winner of the 2014 White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIST) Award. The award, which is given to a non-librarian participating in National Library Legislative Day, covers hotel fees in addition to a \$300 stipend to reduce the cost of attending the event.

Workforce Investment Act Moves Forward

In May, the U.S. House and U.S. Senate released a draft for the “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,” a bill on workforce investment, which acknowledges the work libraries do to help the public gain important employment skills and find jobs—and the legislation allows libraries to be paid for these efforts. Thanks to their continuous work, libraries are part of this bill. We hope the Senate will take up this House-Senate WIA Agreement for a vote in mid-to-late June, then it would move to the House. Library advocates are encouraged to sign up for the ALA Washington Office’s Legislative Action Center for advocacy opportunities to help push this legislation forward: <http://ala.org/takeaction>.

ALA Washington Office Submits Comments on Innovative Approaches to Literacy Program

On April 1, 2014, the ALA Washington Office submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Education on the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) grant program. IAL was funded in FY 2014 at \$25 million and is a competitive grant program where, by law, a minimum of half of this money must go to low-income schools to update and maintain their school libraries. The rest of the money goes to national non-profits that work for childhood literacy.

ALA Responds to House Budget Proposal that Dismisses Role of IMLS

On April 1st, ALA President Barbara Stripling responded to the new budget released from Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI), the House Budget Committee Chairman. The proposal denounces the critical role that the Institute of Museum and Library Services plays in supporting civic engagement, literacy and lifelong learning in more than 123,000 libraries nationwide. Rep. Ryan recommends that the federal government not have a role in libraries and that Congress shift the federal agency's responsibilities to the private sector in his 2015 fiscal year budget resolution. In Rep. Ryan's own state of Wisconsin, more than 65 percent of libraries report that they are the only free access point to the Internet in their communities. Just blocks from Rep. Ryan's Wisconsin office, more than 716,000 visitors used the Hedberg Public Library in Janesville, Wisconsin to access library computers and research databases, check out books and receive job training in 2013.

Spending Bill Passed for 2014 Fiscal Year

In January 2014, President Obama signed a \$1.1 trillion spending bill to fund the U.S. federal government through September 2014. The legislation partially restores funding to the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)—the primary source of annual funding for libraries in the federal budget—that were dramatically cut in the 2013 fiscal year under sequestration. The total amount appropriated for LSTA increased from \$175,044,000 to \$180,909,000 for fiscal year 2014. President Obama's spending bill included language that supports open access—a win for libraries and public access to federally-funded information. While we celebrate this milestone in open access, we are also aware that we have not gone far enough; additional provisions found in the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act would make this effort complete.

The 2014 fiscal year spending bill also included funding for Innovative Approaches to Literacy, a competitive grant under the Department of Education that requires that at least half of the funds go to low-income school libraries. This program was appropriated at \$25 million for the 2014 fiscal year. This is a \$2.4 million cut from funding for the 2013 fiscal year. Local education agencies in low-income areas can compete for the grant to help update school libraries with books and other materials.

Federal Library Funding Cut in Proposed Budget

In March, President Barack Obama released his budget request for the 2015 fiscal year. The proposed budget for the LSTA Act falls \$2 million short from the \$180.9 million enacted by the U.S. Congress for the 2014 fiscal year. The big hit came to the state grant program, with slight increases to the set aside for Native Americans and Hawaiians and the National Leadership grants. On a conference call with stakeholders, Institute of Museum and Library Services Director Susan Hildreth discussed the Laura Bush 21st Century grants programs, saying that her agency is working on a National Continuing Education Platform so library employees can continue their education around new services and technologies.

On a disappointing note, the President's budget did not include any resources for school libraries. The budget did, however, include professional development funding for school librarians, teachers and leaders who provide high-speed internet access to students. The Obama Administration requested that \$200 million

dollars be allocated to ConnectEDucators, a new initiative that will ensure that school professionals are well-prepared to use high-speed internet resources in a way that improves classroom instruction and student learning. The ConnectEDucators program is an extension of the Administration's ConnectED initiative.

Additionally, President Obama's budget requests funding support for school librarians through the Department of Education's Race to the Top program. The Equity and Opportunity Program assists states and school districts in high poverty areas in offering the best educators and school librarians. Currently, there are two sign-on letters currently circulating in the House and the Senate: one supporting the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program and the other supporting LSTA funding. Both letters are asking for support for these programs in the 2015 fiscal year federal budget. Additionally, the ALA, PLA, ALSC, AASL and the Medical Library Association, along with 1,060 other labor, health, and education organization sent a letter to Congress asking that \$163.6 billion be allocated to the House and Senate Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittees for FY 2015.

ALA Joins in Supporting the FOIA Oversight and Implementation Act of 2014

In February, ALA united with 26 other organizations in a letter to members of the House of Representatives urging them to vote for H.R. 1211, the FOIA Oversight and Implementation Act of 2014. H.R. 1211 is a bipartisan bill that would "amend the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to promote greater government transparency and accountability." On February 25, 2014, the bill passed the House and a day later was sent to the Senate where it was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

ALA Honors Leaders with Freedom of Information Awards

During the 16th Annual Freedom of Information Day in Washington, D.C., ALA awarded the James Madison Award to President Obama's Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies, the body of intelligence and legal experts tasked with assessing the United States' surveillance practices. The James Madison Award honors, celebrates and recognizes groups and individuals who have championed for public access to government information. Additionally, ALA awarded the grassroots advocacy Eileen Cooke Award to the Open Government Project of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey. ALA Immediate Past President Maureen Sullivan presented the awards at the Freedom of Information Day event.

Congress Introduces Harmful Open Access Act

In March, Reps. Lamar Smith (R-TX) and Larry Bucshon (R-IN) introduced the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology Act (H.R. 4186), a bill that challenges public access to tax-payer funded research. ALA stands with the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition in opposing Section 303 of this bill, a provision that would create unnecessary obstacles to the public's ability to access research funded by tax-payers. ALA is encouraging members to contact their representatives to express their opposition to a bill that would delay the public's right to information.

ALA Recognizes Rep. Holt's Leadership

We are sad to report that Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) announced his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives in February, ending 16 years of service. The American Library Association expresses its deepest appreciation for the distinguished work of Rep. Holt, a leader who has worked tirelessly to support public, academic and school libraries nationwide. Rep. Holt introduced the Workforce Investments through Local Libraries Act to integrate libraries into job training efforts. Rep. Holt has also been a consistent

supporter of the Library Services and Technology Act, the only federal funding program exclusively for libraries.