

**ALA Committee on Legislation
Report to Council
2015 Annual Meeting – San Francisco, CA**

**Vivian Wynn
Chair, ALA Committee on Legislation
July 30, 2015**

Committee on Legislation highlights of 2015:

1. COL Manual –
 - COL is creating an Orientation Manual to be used as a tool for incoming members and others interested in the work of the Committee. Topics that can be found in the manual include: descriptions of the type of work that the Committee engages in, the relationship between COL and the Office of Government Relations, and the responsibilities of a COL member. The Manual is in its final stages and will be online by the end of the summer.
2. ALA Core Competencies
 - In response to a recommendation from the COL FDLP Task Force, the COL Government Information Subcommittee created, and COL approved, proposed changes and additions to the ALA Core Competencies. These changes address government information skills and the management of, and access to, government information. The recommendations will be sent to the Committee on Education to be considered during the next revision of the Competencies.
3. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
 - COL and the Washington Office have been working to prepare to educate the membership about the opportunities provided by this bill. The ALA, filing jointly with COSLA, submitted comments (<http://tinyurl.com/alawioa>) to the Secretaries of Labor and Education on June 15, 2015 in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Our submission commended the government agencies noting that, for the most part, the proposed regulations were clear and would prove useful as libraries begin to work with state and local workforce investment boards, state and local government officials and one-stop centers to help implement WIOA. Libraries are ready to benefit as eligible training partners, and non-mandatory “One-Stop” partners delivering adult education and leadership training.

These workforce roles are not new to libraries, as many are doing one or more of the activities which would qualify for this funding. WIOA provides a critical opportunity to build library capacity to partner more deeply with One-Stops or other workforce groups and to serve more job seekers and workers by providing the training and support needed to succeed in today's global economy.

4. FLAG

- Over the last six months, the members of the FLAG Committee have continued to identify library advocates who have agreed to be a part of the FLAG cadre of advocates. Advocates in this cadre maintain direct relationships with Members of Congress and are willing and able to contact these Members to advocate on behalf of libraries and library-friendly legislation when the need arises. We encourage all ALA members to think about their contacts and connections and to send FLAG the names of advocates potentially able to fulfill these requirements. This process already has proved useful in recent legislative activities.
- In addition to the FLAG Committee continuing to look for new advocates, we are also increasing the number of members of the Subcommittee and invite interested members to contact the COL chair.

5. Speak Out

- The COL Grassroots Subcommittee completed, and ALA has implemented, the Speak Out advocacy tool, which addresses eight major challenges for librarians and library supporters. Now live on Advocacy University at: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advocacy-university>, Speak Out offers resources and information to break down those barriers and encourage advocates to get involved in advocacy.

COL brings this action item to Council:

CD #42 Resolution Against Mass Surveillance of the American People was referred to COL and IFC during Council I. COL and IFC jointly request that the following resolution be substituted in lieu of CD #42.

The resolution is CD#20.3:

**RESOLUTION ON THE PASSAGE OF THE USA FREEDOM ACT
AND
REAFFIRMING ALA’S COMMITMENT TO SURVEILLANCE LAW REFORM**

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. commends the authors and primary supporters of the USA FREEDOM Act for their efforts, courage, and success in securing its passage;
2. recommits itself to the maximum possible restoration of the public’s privacy and civil liberties through statutory and other legal reforms; and
3. reaffirms its commitment to fostering maximum transparency in all workings of government.

Additional Information Items:

1. NTIS – action taken with resolution and current status
 - o During the COL meeting on Friday June 26 the situation concerning NTIS was reviewed. Following the Midwinter conference, the [Resolution on Preserving Public Access to Scientific and Technical Reports Available Through the National Technical Information Service](#) was shared with Congressional staff. When S. 787, the NTIS Elimination Act, was introduced in March the resolution was again shared with the appropriate Congressional committee staff. The most recent update that the Washington Office has received is that, after several briefings by the Department of Commerce, the agency that houses NTIS, the Commerce Committee is currently content to wait and see how things progress at the agency. COL and the WO will continue to monitor any activity on NTIS.
2. Federal Communications Commission Net Neutrality
 - o Efforts to reverse the FCC’s Open-Internet Order (Net Neutrality Rules) are underway by the House Appropriations Committee. The FCC appropriations bill includes an amendment prohibiting the FCC from expending any funds in FY16 implementing and/or enforcing the Order. ALA is working to ensure that this amendment is not in the final version

of the bill. A final bill is not expected until later this year. COL will continue to work with the Washington Office in monitoring this issue as it moves forward.

3. Reauthorization of ESEA

- COL has been assisting the Washington Office staff in their efforts to include school librarians in education legislation. The Senate is preparing to take up the Every Child Achieves Act when it returns on July 7. There is much in the bill already to solidify school librarians' place in the learning environment of K-12 schools. We are hopeful that activities not now in the bill will be added to an amendment that Senator Jack Reed will offer. Senator Reed's items may be integrated into Senator Alexander's manager's amendment, so we need to keep watch. In the House, HR 5 still does not have enough support to pass, so the House leadership will not bring it to the floor. For school libraries, the Senate bill is much preferred. COL will continue to work with the Washington Office to ensure the inclusion of school librarians in the bill.

4. Reauthorization of Library Services and Technology Act

- COL has once again convened a subcommittee with representatives from every group that cares about LSTA to work on suggestions for changes that the library community would like to see in the reauthorization of LSTA next year.

5. Government Information Subcommittee Educational Document

- During this conference the Government Information Subcommittee (GIS) sent forward to COL a brief educational document pertaining to the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). A document that originated from the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) Legislation Committee was referred to GIS for further review and was discussed prior to and during this conference. COL was appreciative of the work of both GODORT and GIS. COL moved that the document be accepted in concept with final minor editing to be done by COL members and WO staff. The final version of the document will be disseminated to COL. This educational document, when completed, can be utilized to educate members of Congress, as well as ALA membership, on the purpose and work of FLDP.

6. Resolution on the Destruction of Libraries and Schools in Gaza

- During COL Business Meeting II, the members discussed the "Resolution on the Destruction of Libraries and Schools in Gaza in 2014" and chose not to endorse it. Also during this conference, at the request of the originator, COL discussed and provided suggested edits to the Resolution on Improving Access to Spanish, Bilingual, and Books in Various Languages for Children in Detention Centers.

I am ending my four years on the Committee on Legislation and my three years as COL chair. I want to thank the many members of COL over the years for their hard work and commitment to this essential part of our Association. I would also like to thank all of the WO staff for their help and hard work, in particular Lynne Bradley and Jessica McGilvray and, of course, WO Director Emily Sheketoff.

Committee on Legislation:

Vivian R. Wynn Chair
Clara Nalli Bohrer
Ann Dutton Ewbank
Eboni M. Henry
Debra E. Kachel
Bowie Kotria
Debra Kay Logan
Kari R. Mitchell
Adi Redzic
Joan Ress Reeves
Patty Saidenberg
Maureen Sullivan
Christian Zabriskie
Denise Zielinski
Michelle Dunaway Intern
Amelia Kallaher Intern

**RESOLUTION ON THE PASSAGE OF THE USA FREEDOM ACT
AND
REAFFIRMING ALA'S COMMITMENT TO SURVEILLANCE LAW REFORM**

Whereas the recent enactment of the USA FREEDOM Act of 2015 and the reforms that it will effect will significantly contribute to the necessary recalibration of the nation's privacy and surveillance laws to restore civil liberties lost upon passage of the USA PATRIOT Act;

Whereas passage of the USA FREEDOM Act accomplished only a small fraction of all such necessary change;

Whereas the ALA has previously vigorously committed itself to defend the privacy rights of library users and supported open government, government transparency, and accountability; and

Whereas both individually and collectively, librarians have the responsibility and ability to again contribute significantly to ending mass surveillance and to the passage of other critical additional surveillance law reforms through education of the public, professional practice, civic engagement, and political action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. commends the authors and primary supporters of the USA FREEDOM Act for their efforts, courage, and success in securing its passage;
2. recommits itself to the maximum possible restoration of the public's privacy and civil liberties through statutory and other legal reforms; and
3. reaffirms its commitment to fostering maximum transparency in all workings of government.

*See, e.g., Resolution Reaffirming the Principles of Intellectual Freedom in the Aftermath of Terrorist Attacks (2002); Resolution on the USA PATRIOT Act and Related Measures That Infringe on the Rights of Library Users (2003); Resolution on the Terrorism Information Awareness Program (2003); Resolution on the USA PATRIOT Act and Libraries (2005); Resolution on the Use and Abuse of National Security Letters: On the Need for Legislative Reforms to Assure the Right to Read Free of Government Surveillance (2007); Resolution on the Reauthorization of Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act (2009); Resolution on the Need for Reforms for the Intelligence Community to Support Privacy, Open Government, Government Transparency, and Accountability (2013); Resolution on Curbing Government Surveillance and Restoring Civil Liberties (2014); and Resolution Commends (sic) Sen. Patrick Leahy and Congressman James Sensenbrenner for Sponsoring the USA Freedom Act (2014)

Subcommittee reports:

Copyright

The COL Copyright Subcommittee held one meeting at the 2015 Annual Conference. Subcommittee members heard a report of the morning's Subcommittee-sponsored program on the real-world, intellectual property issues raised by the burgeoning use of 3D printers in libraries from Subcommittee member and principal presenter Tomas Lipinski. The Subcommittee also was updated by staff on a host of "ripening" federal copyright issues and processes. The majority of the related discussion focused on proposals to move the US Copyright Office out of the Library of Congress, as well as the President's impending nomination of a new Librarian of Congress. A brief update on ALA's work with the new "Re:Create" copyright coalition, and an upcoming joint Congressional education campaign the group is planning for the fall, also was provided. Additional discussion of the Subcommittee's work in the coming year centered on how best to engage more frequently and directly in pending legislative matters, member education about copyright challenges and solutions, and encouraging increased member and other stakeholder engagement in ALA's federal advocacy pertaining to intellectual property.

E-Government Services

In lieu of a meeting during the Annual conference, the Subcommittee on E-Government Services co-sponsored a program with the Federal & Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT). The program, Veterans Connect @ the Library, focused on a new partnership between California public libraries and the California Department of Veterans Affairs which are working to connect veterans and their families to benefits and services for which they are eligible. The program was well received and the information imparted was instructive. The Subcommittee members plan on completing further updates for the E-Government Toolkit and they are also planning on hosting a pre-conference in Orlando prior to the Annual 2016 conference focused on e-government services.

FLAG

The FLAG Subcommittee met briefly to discuss its progress in the last six months. An update was given regarding the number of legislators that the FLAG cadre can contact at this time (52 legislators). The Congressional members present took the remainder of the meeting to consider the list of key committees provided by the Washington Office. This list highlights Members of Congress of strategic importance to making library issues heard. The Subcommittee would like to prioritize finding advocates able to contact those Members of Congress first. The decision also was made to put out an email to state associations and chapters asking for anyone who might know of potential cadre members to get in touch with the FLAG Subcommittee.

Government Information

The Government Information Subcommittee (GIS) held two meetings during ALA Annual 2015. The first meeting was held jointly with the Government Documents Round Table's (GODORT) Legislation Committee. Participants heard from the Government Publishing Office (GPO) regarding its Federal Information Preservation Network, received updates on the current situation with the National Technical Information Service, and on the ALA Core Competency work on government information that GIS had completed and that was accepted by COL. A discussion was held during the meeting pertaining to a resolution regarding fugitive digital documents that was later withdrawn.

The primary focus of GIS's second meeting was a one-pager pertaining to the Federal Depository Library Program. This is an educational document that, when completed, can be utilized to educate members of Congress. GIS also discussed how to move forward in building a coalition within ALA focused on education and training in support of core competencies for government information.

Grassroots

The Grassroots Subcommittee welcomed three speakers to the meeting this week. Advocacy expert Stephanie Vance stopped by to discuss the Speak Out document, now hosted on Advocacy University, and to discuss the series of videos that she is creating to accompany the document. These videos will aid in drawing attention to the resources available through Speak Out and will be used on social media. Two additional speakers, Jackson Bird and Janae Phillips from the Harry Potter Alliance, also spoke about the work the HPA does. The HPA uses the passion and excitement of fan groups to interest members in advocacy and service projects. With some 90,000 members averaging from age 13-22, the HPA's grassroots efforts and the organization's desire to collaborate with libraries and the ALA were of great interest to the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is looking forward to collaborating with the HPA on the 2016 Virtual Library Legislative Day. The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing ways to encourage legislators to visit libraries. A list of suggestions and possibilities was raised, including the possibility of creating a site visit packet to help equip librarians to undertake the process. At the end of the meeting, the decision was made to cancel the second scheduled Grassroots meeting, given that the Subcommittee covered all necessary ground in its first meeting.

Legislation Assembly

The Legislation Assembly met Monday during the 2015 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. Assembly members were encouraged to submit the names of 2014-15 representatives from their units to the Washington Office.

Telecommunications:

On Saturday, the COL Telecommunications Committee met to review and discuss priority issues for the library community. Highlights included an update on E-rate, network neutrality, Lifeline, unlicensed spectrum, the 21st Century Communications Act, and the Digital Learning Equity Act. The Committee discussed their role in the “Now Showing” @ ALA movie presentation of “Killswitch.” A discussion was held about possible issues the Committee might consider addressing in the future, including accessibility, emerging technologies, and entrepreneurship.

The COL Telecommunications Subcommittee met on Sunday in a joint session with the Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) Subcommittee on Telecommunications. At this meeting, the two Subcommittees examined in great detail E-rate, unlicensed spectrum and broadband adoption. The COL Telecommunications members present discussed the successful showing of “Killswitch” during the “Now Showing” @ ALA film series. Over 70 people attended the showing and shared thoughts after the presentation.

Final Notes:

We would like to urge all Councilors who have not yet done so to sign up to receive District Dispatch blog posts in order to be fully informed on current legislative issues, and to receive legislative action alerts.

As always, COL would like to thank the staff of OGR for all of their hard work! The work of COL cannot happen without their help.

Six Month Report on ALA Washington Office Activities

Sen. Durbin, FCC Leaders Address ALA Midwinter Meeting

The ALA Washington Office organized a number of well-attended sessions at the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting. Assistant Senate Minority Leader Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) discussed the implications of the November mid-term Congressional elections for America, libraries and library advocacy during the Washington Update session. Roger Goldblatt, associate bureau chief of the Federal Communications Commission's Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau, spoke at the same conference session, focusing on the Commission's new consumer education initiative and its digital literacy agenda.

In another program, library leaders, including ALA Executive Board member Jim Neal, gathered to discuss a preliminary national policy agenda as part of the ALA *Policy Revolution!* and how it relates to ALA's overall strategy. In one conference session on ebooks, an expert panel provided insights on new opportunities available to libraries now that five of the world's largest publishers provide libraries with access to their full ebook catalogs. In another session, Maura Marx, acting IMLS director, detailed the agency's priorities for the next two years, which will shape the agency's discretionary and Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States programs.

ALA Welcomes White House's ConnectED: Library Challenge

On April 29th, the White House announced the launch of ConnectED: Library Challenge, a new initiative to ensure that all school students receive public library cards through their schools. The ALA Washington Office secured an opportunity for American Library Association President Courtney Young to meet with President Barack Obama immediately prior to the launch of the ConnectED: Library Challenge initiative. Young responded to the Challenge by calling on school and public library leaders to work collaboratively with school administrators and civic leaders to ensure that each and every student has a public library card. In the fall, the Institute of Museum and Library Services will convene a meeting of the national library, government and school leaders to discuss best practices for developing and implementing school-public library card programs in their local districts.

ALA Helps Found and Launch New Copyright Coalition Re:Create

In late April, ALA joined almost one dozen other founding member trade and civil society organizations to launch "Re:Create: Innovators, Creators and Consumers United for Balanced Copyright." The group is a new coalition formed in anticipation of at least some, and potentially sweeping, efforts beginning in the current Congress to "reform" copyright law. Detailed information about Re:Create, its mission, objectives and positions on a broad range of issues is online at: www.recreatecoalition.org.

District Dispatch Subscriber Count Doubles

In the past six months, the ALA Washington Office has more than doubled the number of subscribers to the *District Dispatch*, the Office's policy blog. Since ALA Washington Office Press Officer Jazzy Wright rolled out the technical and graphic redesign of the *District Dispatch* blog and ALA Grassroots Communications Specialist Lisa Lindle began her social media work, the Office's policy blog has more than doubled from 3,000 to just under 6,100 subscribers.

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

ALA Issues Statement Opposing House Budget Proposal Potentially Eliminating IMLS

Upon release of the House Budget Committee's Report on its latest "illustrative" Budget Resolution proposing to eliminate all funding for IMLS, and with it programs such as the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), OGR coordinated release of a public statement by President Courtney Young. The office also, upon request, assisted senior staff of the National Archives to identify and analyze the appropriate statutory language. Budget and appropriations discussions may dominate much of Congress' agenda for the balance of the year.

President's Budget Proposes Increased Library Funding

The nearly \$4 trillion budget transmitted to Congress by President Obama in early February would fund the federal government for the 2016 fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2015. Highlights for the library community include \$186.5 million in assistance to libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act, an important program that provides funding to states through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The budget includes \$8.8 million in new funding for library and museum services to give more Americans free and electronic access to the resources of libraries, archives, and museums by promoting the use of technology to expand access to their holdings. If funded by Congress, this creation of a National Digital Platform would be administered through the IMLS National Leadership Grant programs, taking \$5.3 million from LSTA and \$3.5 million from museum funds.

ALA Works Intensively to Support Continued LSTA and IAL Funding

With "appropriations season" in high gear, ALA again led efforts to secure broad, bipartisan support for letters by Members of Congress to their colleagues serving on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees specifically endorsing funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL). ALA's efforts succeeded in obtaining more House signatures on the two letters than in 2014, while nearly matching the number of signatures on the Senate letters despite the fact that many previous Senate supporters are no longer in office. All told, 31 Senators signed the LSTA letter and 25 signed the IAL letter. In the House, 68 representatives signed the LSTA letter while 125 signed the IAL letter.

ALA also delivered numerous grassroots alerts and notices to library advocates in an effort to support these letters, ultimately generating 6,160 emails from 2,131 individuals directed to more than 90 percent of all Members of Congress (487 of 533 total). Each message specifically asked Senators and Representatives to sign the two letters of support for LSTA and IAL that were circulated. In addition, ALA generated nearly two dozen detailed "official" budget request forms required by Appropriations Committee members. Each request required state-specific data on LSTA and IAL programs with only a few days to gather the specific data and file the non-standardized forms with various offices.

ALA joined numerous coalition partners on two letters to Congress urging reasonable appropriations. The [first letter \(pdf\)](#) urges that sequestration cuts be replaced with a balanced approach to defense and non-defense discretionary spending. The [second letter](#) (pdf), which was sent to Senators Blunt and Murray and Representatives Cole and DeLauro, urges continued support or impact aid to federally owned school real estate.

ALA Actively Pushes for Congress to Include School Library/Librarian Language in ESEA

In late January, U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) joined Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran (R-MS) in introducing the SKILLS Act (S.312). The bipartisan SKILLS Act would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) by requiring state and local school districts to develop “effective school library programs” to help students gain digital literacy skills, master the knowledge and skills in the challenging academic content standards adopted by the state, and graduate from high school ready for college and careers. By definition, an effective school library program would include an adequately resourced school library staffed by a state-certified librarian. ALA submitted formal comments to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Chairman Sen. Lamar Alexander and Ranking Member Sen. Patty Murray on their Discussion Draft of legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. ALA asked librarians via legislative alerts to contact their Senators to ask that the SKILLS Act be integrated into the seminal version of the ESEA reauthorization bill written by Chairman Alexander and Sen. Murray, which would become the basis for the HELP Committee’s subsequent consideration of ESEA. If the SKILLS Act is included in such a “base bill,” it would send the signal that Committee leadership backs the proposal and would likely oppose any effort to strip it from the bill by later amendment.

In March, OGR conceived and orchestrated two intensive and distinct ad hoc coalition efforts to support dedicated school library funding in the reauthorization of ESEA. The first letter went to key Democratic Members of the Senate HELP Committee. ALA and AASL were joined on the first letter by eleven other leading national non-profit organizations, including the: NEA, AFT, National Superintendents Roundtable, National Alliance of Black School Educators and the National Literacy Council.

The [second letter \(pdf\)](#) was backed by more than 20 education businesses, associations and media groups, including: Scholastic Inc., EBSCO Information Services and the Association of American Publishers, Baker & Taylor, OverDrive, Booklist Publications, Bound to Stay Bound Books, DEMCO Inc. and the Junior Library Guild. Both letters call on the U.S. Congress to incorporate the SKILLS Act in ESEA reauthorization, which would expand federal investment in school libraries in order to offer students the tools they need to develop critical thinking, digital, and research skills. ALA transmitted the letters, targeted appropriately, to U.S. Senate HELP Committee Chairman Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and HELP Committee Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA).

Senate HELP Committee Passes Every Child Achieves Act (ECAA), including school libraries

The Committee marked up a reauthorization for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including much of the school library improvements ALA requested, but not all.

The bill did include many opportunities for the school libraries and librarians to be specifically included, for instance, it authorizes states to use funds to support the instructional services provided by school librarians. And Local Education Agencies (LEA) is authorized to use funds to support the instructional services provided by school librarians.

For the purposes of Teaching of Traditional American History, LEAs are required to carry out grant activities in partnership with an institution of higher education; a

nonprofit history or humanities organization; or a library or museum. For the purposes of Presidential and Congressional Academies for American History and Civics, an eligible entity is defined as an institution of higher education or nonprofit educational organization; museum; library; or research center with demonstrated expertise in historical methodology or the teaching of American history and civics; or a consortium of entities.

Eligible entities must use subgrant funds to coordinate the involvement of early childhood education program staff, principals, other instructional leaders, teachers, teacher literacy teams, English as a second language specialists (as appropriate), special educators, and school librarians in the literacy development of children up to Grade 5 who are served under the grant. And eligible entities must use subgrant funds to coordinate the involvement of principals, other instructional leaders, teachers, teacher literacy teams, English as a second language specialists (as appropriate), paraprofessionals, special educators, and school librarians in the literacy development of children in Grades 6 through 9 served under the grant. And finally, it authorizes as an allowable use of funds for children in Kindergarten through Grade 12, eligible entities can use funds to provide time for teachers (and other literacy staff, as appropriate, such as school librarians) to meet to plan comprehensive literacy instruction.

21st century community learning centers can use their local funds to support expanded library service hours. And it authorizes eligible entities to use funds to promote the effective use of materials developed under the program among parents, teachers, Head Start providers, providers of family literacy services, child care providers, early childhood development personnel, elementary school teachers, public libraries, and after-school program personnel caring for preschool and elementary school children.

Under the I-TECH Definitions, the term “technology readiness survey” means a survey completed by an LEA that provides standardized information on the quantity and types of technology infrastructure and access available to the students and in the community served by the LEA, including computer devices, access to school libraries, Internet connectivity, operating systems, related network infrastructure, data systems, educator professional learning needs and priorities, and data security. State Education Agencies (SEA) applications must include an assurance that each LEAs awarded a subgrant have conducted a “technology readiness survey” (which includes access to school libraries) and will take steps to address the readiness gaps identified not later than 3 years after the completion of the survey by the LEA.

SEAs must use state grant funds to provide technical assistance to LEAs to identify and address technology readiness needs, as determined by the technology readiness surveys (which includes access to school libraries); and ensure that teachers, paraprofessionals, library and media personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, and administrators possess the knowledge and skills to use technology. LEA applications must include a description of the results of the technology readiness survey (which includes access to school libraries) completed by the LEA; and a description of the team of educators who will coordinate and carry out the activities, including individuals with responsibility and expertise in instructional technology, teachers that specialize in

supporting students who are children with disabilities and English learners, other school leaders, library and media personnel, technology officers, and staff responsible for assessments and data.

LEAs must use at least 50% of their funds to carry out professional development in digital learning for teachers, principals, other school leaders, paraprofessionals, library and media personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, technology coordinators, and administrators in the use of technology to support student learning. Each LEA must submit a report to the SEA and each SEA must submit a report to the Secretary of Education that must include the professional learning activities funded under the grant, including types of activities and entities involved in providing such professional learning to classroom teachers and other staff, such as school librarians.

And a section authorizes a new Literacy and Arts Education program that authorizes eligible entities to use funds to promote literacy programs that support the development of literacy skills in low-income communities, including developing and enhancing effective school library programs, which may include providing professional development for school librarians, books, and up-to-date materials to low-income schools.

Senator Cornyn Receives Madison Award for Championing Public's Right to Know

In March, ALA awarded Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) the 2015 James Madison Award during the 17th Annual Freedom of Information Day in Washington, D.C. While the Senator was unable to attend in person, he recorded a video that was shown thanking ALA and acknowledging its long commitment to open access to government and other information. The engraved crystal award was subsequently presented to the Senator himself at the Capitol by Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff.

The James Madison Award honors individuals who have championed, protected and promoted public access to government information and the public's right to know how it functions. Since taking office in 2002, Sen. Cornyn has led congressional efforts to improve the public's access to government information. In 2007, he co-sponsored the OPEN Government Act, which reformed the Freedom of Information Act and created the Office of Government Information Services (GIS). Earlier this year, Sen. Cornyn introduced the FOIA Improvement Act of 2015, which would strengthen the GIS and require that records be released unless there is foreseeable harm or a legal requirement to withhold them.

Sen. Cornyn also has been active in the fight to make federally-funded research accessible to the public. As a co-sponsor of both the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FACTA) and the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2013 (FASTR), Sen. Cornyn has spearheaded efforts to give Americans open access to taxpayer-funded research and to achieve the social and economic progress for which such access is a necessity. Indeed, the Senator reintroduced the latest version of FASTR just hours before his award was announced at Washington's Newseum. Sen. Cornyn serves as the Senate's Majority Whip, the second highest ranking position in the Republican Leadership behind Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

ALA Submits Joint House Testimony Backing FOIA “Transparency” Reforms

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform’s Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Ensuring Government Transparency through FOIA Reform” on February 27, 2015. [ALA joined with nine other organizations to submit testimony](#) proposing an amendment to the [House FOIA Reform bill](#) that would allow all FOIA processors access to all electronic records systems for the processing of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The Freedom of Information Act is a law that gives the public the right to access information held by the federal government.

ALA Organizes Access for Library Leaders to IRS Tax Form Program Officials

In March, the ALA Washington Office hosted a conference call with several Internal Revenue Service (IRS) officials to discuss problems and issues surrounding the distribution of 2014 tax forms and instruction publications to libraries. Nearly 100 library leaders participated in the call. The IRS is calling for library leaders to comment on ways to improve the Tax Forms Outlet Program (TFOP). To provide feedback on the TFOP program, please email Emily Sheketoff at esheketoff@alawash.org. They have also funded a committee to facilitate changes in the distribution for the future.

ALA Capitalizes on Extensive Coalition Opportunities to Underscore Library Priorities

In this reporting period, OGR devoted extensive time and effort to reinforcing and amplifying its participation in multiple issue-driven coalitions addressing fundamental library principles and needs. These efforts were reflected in ALA’s evaluation, fine-tuning and ultimate endorsement of more than a dozen joint letters to Congress and other arms of the federal government. Issues covered included: agency compliance with international human rights obligations, personal privacy challenges posed by “E911” cell phone locator technology, transparency in trade agreement negotiation and the importance of preserving fair use and other important “access” provisions of U.S. copyright law in them, as well as potential congressional action to reform FOIA, and cybersecurity, copyright, privacy and surveillance statutes.

President Obama Nominates Kathryn Matthew to Lead IMLS

In March, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate Dr. Kathryn Matthew to serve as the director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Dr. Matthew is currently the chief science educator at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, a position she has held since 2014. She was a principal consultant and a product manager at Blackbaud, Inc. from 2008 to 2013, a director at the Historic Charleston Foundation from 2006 to 2008, and an exhibits consultant at Chemical Heritage Foundation from 2005 to 2006. We are awaiting her confirmation by the Senate.

ALA Testifies In Support Of Library Funding At U.S. House LHHS Hearing

On April 28th, Emily Sheketoff, executive director of the ALA Washington Office, called on the U.S. House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to support federal library funding at an appropriations hearing that took place in Washington, D.C. Sheketoff advocated for the House Subcommittee to include \$186.6 million for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) under the Institute of Museum and Library Services and \$25 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program under the

Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Hundreds from Every State Converge on D.C. for 41st Annual National Library Legislative Day

In May, more than 400 library advocates met in Washington, D.C. to speak with their legislators about the importance of libraries as part of the 41st annual National Library Legislative Day. Former Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) jumpstarted the opening briefing by speaking about the importance of constituent advocacy. Additional speakers include American Library Association President Courtney Young, Patrice McDermott, director of Openthegovernment.org and several congressional staff experts. During the annual event [Mas'ood Cajee](#), a library advocate from Stockton, California, was awarded the 2015 White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIST) Award.

Media Interest in ALA's USA Freedom Activities

In [Long Lines for Freedom](#), an op-ed published in Washington's popular "CongressBlog" in *The Hill* on National Library Legislative Day, President Young recounted librarians' long history of opposition to the bulk surveillance of Americans' phone and library records and called strongly on Congress to pass the new USA FREEDOM Act to finally end those practices.

Additionally, the cover story of the *The Nation* magazine's May 25th issue ([available online](#)) chronicles the library community's past and present advocacy and lobbying efforts to protect the public from intrusive government surveillance in a feature-length article titled [Librarians Versus the NSA](#). The piece includes quotations from ALA Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff, OGR Managing Director Adam Eisgrau, OIF Director Barbara Jones and Alison Macrina of the Library Freedom Project. The [issue's cover](#) is boldly titled "Not Your Grandmother's Librarian: Fighting Big Brother in the Digital Age" and features a full-page illustration of a serious, book tattoo-sporting librarian in an updated take on the iconic "Rosie the Riveter" image.

Direct ALA Lobbying, Grassroots Advocacy and Coalition Efforts Help Push Congress to Pass Landmark Reforms of "Library" and Other Provisions of PATRIOT Act

Less than a mere five weeks after its introduction in the House, but after years of foundational effort, the USA FREEDOM Act was signed into law by President Obama on June 2nd. The bill, the first major reform of the nation's surveillance laws since 2001, finally ends the NSA's use of Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act (the "library provision") to collect telephone call and other "business records" (like library patron data) in bulk. Among other reforms, it also for the first time enables meaningful challenge and judicial review of the "gag orders" often accompanying National Security Letters like the ones challenged by the "Connecticut Four." ALA grassroots and other lobbying played a significant and congressionally acknowledged (<http://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/senate-showdown-on-nsa-surveillance-reform>) role in this historic result. Librarians were especially active in the critical final hours preceding the Senate's votes producing over 2,200 emails to Congress in less than eight hours in response to a "last push" alert sent by the Washington Office. The bill's reforms become effective in early December.

Library Copyright Alliance Applauds Introduction of the Breaking Down Barriers to Innovation Act

In April, the Library Copyright Alliance applauded the introduction of the Breaking Down Barriers to Innovation Act of 2015 in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. The bill would address serious problems with the rulemaking process under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. It also would correct deficiencies in several of the existing exceptions to the DMCA. Under current law, the DMCA could be understood to prohibit the circumvention of technological protection measures or “digital locks” for non-infringing purposes, including the fair use of copyrighted material otherwise permitted by law.

ALA will submit Comments to the Departments of Labor and Education’s Rulemaking for Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA)

The Washington Office created a Task Force of state library agency staff and public librarians with experience in delivering workforce services to assist in ALA’s comments to the WIOA Rulemaking. The comments communicate library’s intentions to participate in WIOA as eligible training partners, non-mandatory one-stop partners, models of digital technology enhancement implementation, local or consortium-based Adult Education and Family Literacy Act service providers and leadership-training grant recipients.