

**2016-2017 ALA CD#30_11017_inf
2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting**

SIX MONTH WASHINGTON OFFICE REPORT

Office of Government Relations

Hayden Swearing-In Makes National and ALA History

With the September 14th swearing-in of former ALA president Dr. Carla Hayden as the nation's 14th Librarian of Congress, national and ALA history were made. According to key Hill staff involved, the thousands of grassroots contacts with Senators' offices by ALA members and other supporters mobilized by OGR over many months contributed substantially to Dr. Hayden's confirmation. Having also been quietly but intensively involved for months behind the scenes to overcome heavy and coordinated opposition to Dr. Hayden's confirmation by many members of the Senate Republican "Steering Committee" and powerful outside interests like the Heritage Foundation, the Office of Government Relations shares the profession's deep pride in her success.

Dr. Hayden's swearing-in by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts was conducted in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress's historic Jefferson Building. The ceremony, alternately solemn and ebullient, was attended by hundreds of well-wishers and dignitaries, including: ALA President-elect Jim Neal (also representing ALA president Julie Todaro), and ALA past Presidents Sari Feldman, Courtney Young, and Maureen Sullivan (among many other ALA notables). For a flavor of the festivities, you may wish to read this [District Dispatch offering](#) by OGR Managing Director Adam Eisgrau.

COPYRIGHT

Register of Copyrights' departure creates challenges, opportunities for ALA and LOC

In late-October, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden [removed the Register of Copyright](#), Maria Pallante, from that position and reassigned her to another senior post within the Library. Ms. Pallante declined the new posting and resigned, setting off shock waves and, in some commercial and Congressional quarters, protests and criticisms of the Librarian's actions.

In the immediate wake of this news, OGR helped craft a [statement](#) by the [Re:Create Coalition](#) on these developments. Due to multiple Beltway press deadlines, OGR assisted Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff in crafting and quickly releasing the following brief statement: "Today's announcement makes clear that the future of the U.S. Copyright Office is a high priority of the Librarian of Congress. ALA stands ready to assist Dr. Hayden and the staff of the Library to recruit a new Register who is committed to shaping a copyright system that balances the fair protection of copyrighted information and the broadest possible use of that

information to foster innovation, education and creativity of all kinds.” In November, OGR briefed ALA President Todaro for an interview with the Washington Post on issues raised by Pallante’s resignation.

Subsequently, on December 8, the bipartisan leadership of the House Judiciary Committee issued a [press release](#) announcing [initial proposals for changes in copyright law](#) they intend to pursue in the next Congress. These included making the Copyright Office an independent Legislative Branch office entity outside the Library of Congress and making the Register’s position subject to Presidential appointment for a term of 10 years, thus removing that power and oversight of the Office from the Librarian of Congress’ legal responsibilities. OGR also briefed President-elect Jim Neal on these developments and provided him, pursuant to Julie Todaro’s delegation, with detailed background information and materials. OGR also led an effort to craft, immediately release and [post to District Dispatch](#) a statement by the [Library Copyright Alliance](#) (comprised of ALA, ARL and ACRL) on the proposals.

Finally, OGR set up separate meetings with Dr. Hayden for both the Library Copyright Alliance and the non-profit members of the Re:Create Coalition (on November 22 and December 1, respectively) to discuss Copyright Office reform broadly and both groups’ consonant views concerning the most appropriate qualifications for and role of the next Register of Copyrights. Both groups were warmly received by the Librarian.

Marrakesh Treaty Stakeholder Negotiations Ongoing, at Apparent Impasse

At the beginning of the summer, bipartisan staff to both the Senate Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committees summoned representatives of print disabled groups, the library community and the publishers to a private meeting on the Hill. They did so for the express purpose of explaining that: 1) the Association of American Publishers was demanding changes to the Administration’s proposed texts of Treaty implementing legislation and associated legislative history; 2) the Judiciary Committee would not consider such language unless and until a compromise supportable by all stakeholders had been reached; and 3) the Treaty would not be considered by the Foreign Relations Committee or full Senate absent such a compromise on implementing and legislative history text. Staff thus tasked the stakeholders present with meeting and otherwise coordinating over the summer to attempt to reach an accord.

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) was demanding fairly extensive record keeping requirements of the kind considered in Marrakesh but not ultimately required by the Treaty. Unified library groups opposed the AAP’s language because it would be burdensome and was not mandated by the Treaty. However, during the ensuing meetings, libraries have made several proposals moving in AAP’s direction in an effort to bring the Treaty and its implementing legislation to votes in the Senate as rapidly as possible.

Regrettably, notwithstanding libraries’ willingness to endorse suboptimal language, AAP has moved in the opposite direction. Most notably and significantly, it has opposed inclusion of a "fair use savings" clause in the implementing legislation as proposed by libraries even though AAP had previously proposed just such a clause as part of a possible compromise in an earlier

public meeting. Such a clause, present elsewhere in U.S. copyright law, simply would state that nothing in Section 121 of the Copyright Act (the “Chaffee Amendment”) limits the availability of fair use.

Given the impasse, the input of a principal Marrakesh Treaty negotiator from the U.S. delegation was sought by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). As he was making progress, however, the European Commission released proposed regulations in late September pertaining to the Treaty that contained even more onerous recordkeeping provisions than those originally proposed by AAP. This has prompted AAP to back away from the language that was emerging from the negotiations, and to insist instead that the United States enact the EU's approach, which is merely a proposal and a controversial one at that.

Grassroots or other organized public campaigns in support of action on the Treaty and associated legislation or report text will not be appropriate or productive until at least early 2017, after the new Congress is constituted. OGR will keep the Board and Committee on Legislation closely informed of the progress of the ongoing discussions in the interim, and will immediately activate all advocacy resources available once Senate action on the Treaty and related legislation becomes a meaningful possibility.

Progress has been made with and through the third-party negotiator previously described. However, critical differences in how key technical definitions should be crafted precluded consensus being reached prior to Thanksgiving. Consequently, the outgoing 114th Congress was unable to act on legislation to implement the Treaty prior to its late December dissolution. Such action was and remains a prerequisite to ratification of the Treaty in a separate vote. Negotiations will resume immediately after the holiday season. OGR's process of educating new members of Congress strategically important in the new Congress' consideration of the Treaty and related legislation will begin early in January. While final agreement among the stakeholders is likely to be reached, it will remain unclear for some time when the new 115th Congress will consider these matters and what the odds of 2017 Treaty ratification may be.

President Signs Long-Fought FOIA Reform into Law in time for Act's 50th Anniversary

Just in time for its 50th anniversary on July 4th, and after nearly a decade of advocacy work by ALA, other activists and government officials, in late June the [President signed the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016](#). This new law codifies the “presumption of openness” for government documents for future administrations; harnesses technology to improve the FOIA process; limits to 25 years the period of time that agencies may keep records of their internal deliberations confidential; and strengthens the Office of Government Information Services (created in the last FOIA reform bill, the OPEN Government Act of 2007).

ALA honored for second year running for “Top Lobbying Victory” of the year

For the second year in a row, in December ALA was named a “winner” by prominent Beltway newspaper *The Hill* in its [Top 10 Lobbying Victories of 2016](#). (*The Hill* awarded the same

recognition for our role in Congress' passage of the USA FREEDOM Act to curtail mass surveillance in [Top Lobbying Victories of 2015](#).) The honor was accorded to ALA and a small number of our coalition partners for success in a decade-long effort to secure comprehensive reform of the Freedom of Information Act. As reported last quarter, the [FOIA Improvement Act](#) was signed into law on June 30 just days before its 50th anniversary.

New LSTA Reauthorization Bill to be Pushed by Powerful Bipartisan Backers in Current Congress

For the past year, OGR—in active collaboration with COL's Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Subcommittee—has worked extremely closely with long-time library champion Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and his senior staff, and other key Senators, to fashion broadly supportable legislation required to reauthorize LSTA, which expires later this year. The "Museum and Library Services Act of 2016" (S. 3391) was jointly introduced in late-September by Senators Reed, Susan Collins (R-ME), Thad Cochran (R-MS), and Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY). As part of a larger package to reauthorize the Institute of Museum and Library Services and all of the programs it administers, S. 3391 proposes that MLSA be reauthorized at \$230 million annually. That is the same level last authorized in 2010 but, significantly and very positively, the new authority would last through 2022.

Specifically, in an effort to update the law to help libraries improve their technology, enhance collaboration and better serve the public and communities, S. 3391 would:

- Provide technical support and assistance to help libraries collect and analyze data;
- Enhance IMLS's collaborative efforts with an expanded number of federal agencies in order to fully leverage the role of libraries and museums in supporting and meeting the needs of Americans;
- Add focuses for the awarding of National Leadership grant funds on activities that serve a range of library types and geographically diverse areas; include evaluation, analysis, and dissemination components; and actively involve, have direct impact on, or provide future application in libraries;
- Provide greater emphasis on recruiting, training and professional development of the next generation of library and information science professionals from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. And it encourages partnerships with other agencies, professional networks and community-based organizations to expand and enhance access to museum services.

While authorization of an agency or program—first by its committees of jurisdiction and then Congress as a whole—is not legally a prerequisite to its receiving funding, authorization does document for members of the powerful House and Senate Appropriations Committees that their colleagues view authorized agencies and programs as important priorities. Authorized programs are thus much more likely to be funded, though appropriators are under no obligation to award the specific sum authorized by Congress or, for that matter, any sum at all.

OGR and Senator Reed thus took special care and additional time to assure not only that S. 3391 would be a clearly bipartisan bill, but that three of its four cosponsors sit on the Senate Appropriations Committee, including its Chairman, Sen. Cochran. This important preparatory work also included an OGR-arranged meeting between President Julie Todaro with Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), the Senate's second ranking majority Member. It is unclear at this writing whether action on LSTA reauthorization will be possible in the first quarter of 2017.

Congress Again Averts Federal Shutdown with Stop-Gap Funding Measure

Late on December 8, congressional leaders reached agreement on yet another Continuing Resolution (CR) funding package to keep the federal government open beyond the December 9 deadline established by the previous CR adopted at the very end of September, the start of the federal government's fiscal year. Congress' last minute action averted a government shutdown. OGR, in tandem with staff of multiple supportive members in both chambers of Congress, monitored the CR negotiations and text closely to assure that neither library funding nor interests fell prey to any policy riders or other hostile provisions. The CR adopted will run through April 28, 2017, later than originally anticipated, to permit the new Congress time early in its tenure to hold hearings and votes on many anticipated nominations by the incoming Administration.

FASTR Progress Slows in Senate

With its [overwhelming approval](#) by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in late July, and its long-time sponsorship by Sen. John Cornyn (the chamber's #2 Republican), there was cause for real optimism this past summer that the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR) might be quickly approved by the full Senate this fall. No longer. In the wake of influential changes in Sen. Cornyn's senior staff, of which publishing industry lobbyists took full advantage, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)—the broad coalition of library and many other groups backing FASTR—has rejected a series of publisher proposals that would seriously compromise FASTR's value if enacted. Consequently, action on the bill in the 114th Congress stalled. A reinvigorated coalition push to finally pass this important piece of legislation in the 115th Congress, however, is certain.

Final Installment of Popular "SPARK" Advocacy Video Series Publicly Launched

Conceived by the Office of Government Relations—and co-produced, -written, -filmed and -edited in collaboration with the Harry Potter Alliance (HPA)—the eighth and final "SPARK" federal advocacy instruction video was posted to the HPA's YouTube channel in mid-August just three months after posting of the first installment, "[What is Congress Anyway?](#)," was [announced by ALA](#) in early May. The recently released final video, "[Causes to Organize For](#)," highlights specific current policy issues ripe for viewers to take action on, including copyright and privacy-related legislation.

Funded by Google and targeted at new and young advocates in the age 13 to 22 demographic, *SPARK* is designed to demystify the advocacy process and inspire young viewers to take action on the national issues about which they care most. Over the course of the series, advocates are taught how to contact their legislators, request meetings, use library resources, write press releases, and stage campaigns and plan events to gain support for their cause. The series also includes interviews with a number of special guests, including [U.S. Senator Jack Reed](#) of Rhode Island and his staff, noted YA author [Maureen Johnson](#) and research librarian [Jason Baumann](#). To date, *SPARK* has been well received by young viewers, librarians and educators alike, and continues to gain views. Now that the [entire series is online](#), OGR has promoted *SPARK* as a unified resource package with an eye toward increasing its visibility among librarians and educators, who may use it as the basis for curricula, individual lesson plans, skills training and engagement activities with young adults.

Year-end statistics show ALA grassroots active and effective as mobilized by OGR

2016 marked expanded efforts to engage with ALA's grassroots activists. Key results of those efforts, spearheaded by OGR's Grassroots and Social Media Specialist Lisa Lindle, include:

- 11 issue-based campaigns mounted, including Dr. Hayden's confirmation fight;
- 30 individual calls to action posted on the Legislative Action Center;
- 9,554 individuals responded with at least one action;
- 36,952 total actions (e.g., emailing) taken, including 3,053 during Virtual Library Legislative Day; and
- 10,863 current District Dispatch subscribers, an all-time high.

"Connecticut Four" Answer OGR Call to Oppose Late Effort in Senate to Expand FBI's Warrantless National Security Letter Powers

On September 26, OGR was alerted to an attempt to introduce legislation to expand the FBI's authority to warrantlessly compel the production of additional kinds of "electronic communication transaction records" through issuance of a National Security Letter and its associated "gag order." OGR contacted the legislative co-chairs of the Connecticut Library Association, both of whom were immediately responsive to the suggestion that a joint op-ed by all the members of the "Connecticut Four" (of Patriot Act resistance fame) opposing such legislation would be extremely influential if run in the *Hartford Courant* quickly. With the critical assistance of WO Press Officer Shawnda Hines, OGR drafted and facilitated [publication early on Wednesday, September 28, of such an op-ed](#). The piece marks the first time in over a decade that "The Four" had reunited publicly in support of all Americans' civil liberties. OGR is enormously grateful to "The Four" and to CLA Legislative Co-Chairs Mary Etter and Carl Antonucci, who were instrumental in making the op-ed a reality. The legislation was not introduced.

ALA, coalition partners to continue fight against new judicial rule

In late November, ALA joined many coalition partners in [calling on the leadership of Congress](#) in both chambers to schedule an immediate vote to block implementation before December 1 of “Rule 41,” an obscure and technical but vital new provision in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. One week later, OGR launched an appeal to ALA’s grassroots to reinforce that message. Despite many other groups’ similar outreach efforts among their constituencies, Congress was unresponsive. Consequently, Rule 41 went into effect and, as [explained in District Dispatch](#) and [The Hill newspaper](#), federal law enforcement authorities now have sweeping new powers to remotely hack into computers or computer systems to neutralize a cybersecurity threat that they think those computers are helping to distribute (a process known as “hacking back”). Early in the new year work will begin to convince the next Congress to enjoin the government’s use of the new rule until hearings on its dangerous side effects can be held.

Work to prevent encryption “back door” mandate ongoing

October 27, 2016 marked the one-year anniversary of 100,000 people signing a “[We the People](#)” petition to the President and the launch of a 50+ organization [SaveCrypto](#) campaign calling on him to make a strong statement in support of robust encryption. On that date, ALA was among seventeen other [national organizations writing to the President](#) to note that the petition had not yet received a promised reply by the White House, and to specifically ask him again to speak out against proposals to require that encryption designers build vulnerable “back doors” into their software to enable government surveillance. To date, the letter has not yet received a reply. ALA and its partners will continue to press the issue as strategic opportunities present themselves in the new year.

WORKING GROUPS CONTINUE TO GRAPPLE WITH TWO COMPLEX COUNCIL-REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

1) Deaf Cultural Digital Library (DCDL) Resolution Deferred

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, Council considered Resolution 46: “[Resolution Concerning the Creation of the Deaf Culture Digital Library](#).” After robust discussion, Council opted to defer action on the Resolution and referred it jointly to ASCLA and COL to convene and manage a Working Group to consider the many substantive questions raised regarding the matter in Council and otherwise at the Annual Meeting. The Working Group, co-chaired by ASCLA Councilor Chris Corrigan and COL Chair Ann Ewbank, held its first meeting by conference call on September 1st. (Comprised of a total of ten members, the Group also initially included the two movers of the resolution, four librarians who work with the hearing impaired and two additional ALA members who had assisted in drafting the original Council Resolution, including ALA Executive Board member Mike Marlin.) During that call the members discussed the DCDL resolution and heard at length from its original movers in an effort to clarify their broad intentions and specific objectives. After hearing from the movers as to what they envisioned the DCDL to be, the movers were invited by the Group to provide the Group in a month’s time with a revised version incorporating several suggestions of the Working Group.

Shortly after the conference call and many subsequent emails, there were changes in the group membership. With both movers no longer members of the Working Group and the Working Group feeling as though there was a need for in-depth research and discussion among the library and deaf and hard of hearing communities before progressing with a resolution, the members decided that the resolution was premature at this time and that they could not support it as written. The members have shared a response with both COL and ASCLA that both groups will respond to during the Midwinter conference.

2) Initial “Discussion Draft” of Gun Violence Resolution Broadly Circulated for Comment

Upon extensive discussion at the 2016 Annual Meeting, Resolution 45: “[Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons](#)” was referred by Council for revision to a working group co-chaired, respectively, by IFC and COL Chairs Pam Klipsch and Ann Ewbank. The Working Group for the Resolution on Gun Violence is comprised of representatives from the COL, IFC, SRRT and the original mover of the resolution for the EDI Implementation Task Force; Councilors representing a Chapter, Division, and Roundtable; a Councilor-at-Large; and a member of the Executive Board. The Working Group initially met by phone on August 1st, discussed several key issues at length, and tasked a smaller committee comprised of IFC, COL and SRRT members to craft an internal discussion draft of a revised resolution for further consideration by the Group. Substantial group discussion of the drafters’ product occurred by email throughout August, and the Working Group reconvened by phone on September 19.

The Working Group succeeded on that call in reaching consensus on an initial “Discussion Draft” of a proposed revised gun violence-related resolution, which was circulated within days for comment to the ALA Executive Board, members of IFC and COL, and [Council](#). Shortly thereafter, it also was made widely available to ALA’s membership at large for comment through [ALA Connect](#). Open comment on a [Google doc version](#) of the discussion draft (Google login required) also has been facilitated, as has commenting anonymously through [Google forum](#).

In mid-December, having broadly circulated its second draft proposed substitute resolution to the membership in multiple online forums, the Working Group reached consensus on a [discussion draft](#) appropriate to bring to the upcoming Midwinter meeting for further open discussion and action at the discretion of Council. This discussion draft has been posted to the Council listserv and shared broadly through multiple committee and other channels, as well as circulated widely with the membership. Looking ahead to Midwinter, the discussion draft will be discussed at the first Council forum by the Working Group’s Chairs, Ann Ewbank of COL and Pam Klipsch of IFC. Comments shared with them at that meeting will be reported to and considered by both COL and IFC, which will each vote on whether to recommend the draft (possibly as amended in Committee) to Council.

Office of Information Technology Policy

ALA Submits Two Sets of Comments to the FCC

The FCC solicits comments for its annual Broadband Progress Report. The basic question is whether “advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion.” ALA provided comments focused on the [E-rate program](#). In addition, the FCC is developing a [digital inclusion plan](#), and ALA was asked to provide input. Our comments focused on non-price barriers to broadband adoption.

ALA Receives International Visitors

During the summer, the Washington Office received two delegations under the auspices of the International Visitor Leadership Program of the U.S. Department of State, from [Caribbean nations](#) and [Belarus](#). The Caribbean libraries had a primary interest in copyright, while the librarians from Belarus were focused on digital technology and services.

“The People’s Incubator: Libraries Propel Entrepreneurship” Released

ALA issued a 21-page [white paper](#) that describes libraries as critical actors in the innovation economy and urges decision makers to work more closely with the library community to boost American enterprise. The paper includes many examples of library programming, activities and collaborations from across the country. An important goal was to develop a resource that may be used in national policy advocacy.

New series of briefs launched

To make the case to national decision makers and influencers about how libraries are ideally situated to advance national goals, ALA developed a new series of briefs with that audience in mind. The briefs, produced by OITP in collaboration with ALA Presidential Initiative 45-115, are intended as a new long-term resource for policy advocacy. The first four briefs on small business and entrepreneurship, veterans, broadband and economic opportunity were released in the November to December timeframe.

ALA Submits Comments to the Republican and Democratic Party Platform Committees

As a part of our national policy advocacy under the rubric of the Policy Revolution! initiative, ALA provided [input](#) to the major party platform committees. A party platform is a formal set of value statements and goals to guide the direction of a political party. Our submission was informed by approved internal ALA policies, the [National Policy Agenda for Libraries](#) and an assessment of the current political climate.

ALA Was Represented at the Republican and Democratic National Conventions

OITP Research Associate Margaret Kavaras participated in several [sessions at the Republican National Convention](#), and OITP Director Alan S. Inouye participated in several [sessions at the Democratic National Convention](#). The extent of programming, meetings and receptions at the conventions is staggering. Together, they were able to get a sense of the conventions, learn a

bit about the policy positions of the respective campaigns and extol the contributions and value of libraries.

ALA hosts policy event in Washington

OITP hosted a major [policy session](#) at the Google DC office in partnership with the Internet Association. Held on November 17, the session emphasized how the internet industry and libraries can advance economic opportunity in the U.S. The session was chaired by ALA President Julie Todaro with a co-host from Google. The panel comprised speakers from Yelp and the Internet Association, as well as our ALA President-elect [Jim Neal](#), moderated by a reporter from *The Hill*. The session concluded with a policy hackathon at which attendees each offered their ideas in a maximum of two minutes, with a prize awarded for the best idea.

ALA convenes federal and Washington library leaders

Also on November 17, OITP organized a meeting with D.C.-based library leaders. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current policy environment and strategic directions for the national library community. The meeting, chaired by ALA President Julie Todaro, included the leaders of the Library of Congress, National Archives and National Library of Medicine, as well as additional federal participants and representation from allies such as ARL, CNI, AALL and COSLA.

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OITP Offers Copyright Webinar

The latest installment of CopyTalk was held on [September 1, 2016](#). Melissa Levine, Lead Copyright Officer, University of Michigan Library, and Kristina Eden, Copyright Review Project Manager, HathiTrust, described the Copyright Review Management System (CRMS). The CRMS was this year's awardee of the L. Ray Patterson Copyright Award.

OITP hosts webinar on the U.S. Copyright Office

Staff attorney Meredith Rose from [Public Knowledge](#) discussed their report, [Captured: Systemic Bias at the U.S. Copyright Office](#) at a CopyTalk [webinar](#) on November 3rd. Meredith talked about the position and role of the Copyright Office, the influence of industry groups on its policy positions and what libraries and other groups can do to make sure their needs are reflected in Office policy going forward.

ALA Submits Comments on Digital Deposit

ALA, as a member of the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA), submitted [comments](#) to the U.S. Copyright Office (CO) regarding “Mandatory Deposit of Electronic Books and Sound Recordings Available Only Online.” The comments describe the importance of deposit in ensuring that the Library of Congress continues to build and preserve a national collection of works.

OITP Staff Changes

OITP Deputy Director Larra Clark relocated to ALA headquarters and is now a half-time deputy director for both OITP and PLA. Much of Larra’s telecommunications portfolio will now be managed by [Ellen Satterwhite](#), a Director of the Glen Echo Group and an OITP Fellow. Nick Gross, ALA’s [Google Policy Fellow](#) this summer, completed his fellowship and was appointed as an OITP Research Associate. Charlie Wapner, Senior Information Policy Analyst, and our 3D printing policy guru, left ALA August 26 to accept a position at the Pew Charitable Trusts. He will not be replaced in FY17.

ALA joins new coalition to advocate for freedom of speech, equality of opportunity

ALA announced its participation in a new [coalition](#) calling for greater rights and opportunity for all in national technology and media policymaking. ALA joined 16 other organizations in signing onto [“Technology Rights and Opportunity” principles](#) advocating for policies that ensure freedom of speech and equality of opportunity for all, while expanding the ability of the internet to drive economic opportunity and education to the benefit of everyone.

ALA provides comments to the Conseil d’État on the Right to be Forgotten

ALA submitted a [letter](#) to the Conseil d’État (Council of State) in France regarding Google’s appeal of the decision of the Commission Nationale de l’informatique et des libertés (CNIL) implementing a ruling of the European Court of Justice. This decision concerns Google, Inc. and the issue commonly known as the “right to be forgotten” (RTBF). As explained in our [program](#) at the 2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting, the RTBF compels search engine companies to have links to certain personal information removed from search results on their names.

OITP Senior Fellow reappointed to USAC board

OITP Senior Fellow and long-time library E-rate and telecom advocate Robert Bocher was [re-appointed](#) to serve on the board of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), which oversees the implementation of the E-rate program on behalf of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Bob was re-appointed to the USAC board by FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler based on ALA’s recommendation.

ALA submits broadband comments to the U.S. Department of Commerce

In response to a [request](#) from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the National Science Foundation, OITP along with our coalition partners at the Benton Foundation, filed [comments](#) on the National Broadband Research [Agenda](#). The NTIA's Request for Comment (RFC) asked for help identifying the data and research needs in the areas of broadband technology and innovation and prioritizing research proposals can foster access and adoption of broadband across unserved and underserved groups of people.

Presentation at the 2016 European Conference on Information Literacy

At the [2016 European Conference on Information Literacy](#) (ECIL) in Prague, OITP Associate Director Marijke Visser presented with our grant sponsor from Google, Hai Hong, of our [Libraries Ready to Code](#) project. During their presentation, "Computer Science for the Community: Increasing Equitable Opportunity for Youth through Libraries" ([Abstract](#) p. 44), Visser and Hong focused on three assumptions (Libraries can increase opportunities for exposure to coding; libraries can augment what youth learn in the classroom, and librarians can help youth develop a passion for coding) that have emerged over the course of the *Ready to Code* project about the potential of libraries to make significant contributions to computer science education.

ALA, Rosen Publishing release video on coding and libraries

ALA and Rosen Publishing [released](#) the video "[Libraries Ready to Code](#)." Introduced during Computer Science (CS) Education Week, the video depicts coding activities in public and school libraries and underscores how libraries can increase exposure and access to CS learning opportunities for youth. The video will be used as an advocacy tool to increase awareness of library coding activities among decision makers, influencers and other stakeholders at all levels.

ALA included in White House fact sheet

Marking the first day of Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek), on December 5 the White House issued a [Fact Sheet: A Year of Action Supporting Computer Science for All](#) celebrating the past year's progress and announcing new actions in support of #CSForAll. OITP [was included in this fact sheet](#) along with federal agencies like the Department of Education and the Institute of Museum and Library Services as well as other national and local organizations that are creating new or expanding current CS programs for youth. These efforts make a significant statement about the importance of all youth – regardless where they live, what school they attend or where and when they choose to learn – having access to CS, coding and programs that promote computational thinking skills.