



# WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER



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Attachment: Status of Legislation Chart dated Oct. 21, 1983

### Appropriations, FY 1984

Libraries. Congress has completed action on HR 3913, the FY 1984 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. That fact alone is news, because it's the first time in five years that legislators have sent the regular L-HHS-ED funding bill to the President's desk for signature. For the previous four fiscal years, these programs have been funded under continuing resolutions. Both House and Senate approved the conference report (H. Rept. 98-422) on October 20, and the President is expected to sign the measure. Amounts for libraries are shown below:

(figures in thousands)	FY '83 Approps.	FY '84 House passed	FY '84 Senate passed	FY '84 Conference
Library Services & Construction Act				
Title I, Public Lib. Services	\$ 60,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000
II, Pub. Lib. Construction	50,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
III, Interlibrary Coop.	11,520	15,000	11,520	15,000
Higher Education Act				
Title II-A, College Libraries	1,920	1,920	-0-	-0-
II-B, Training & research	880	880	880	880
II-C, Research Libraries	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Educ. Consolidation & Improvement				
Ch. 2 (incl. school libraries)	479,420	478,879	479,420	479,420
Medical Library Assistance Act	13,400*	defer	defer	defer
National Library of Medicine	38,902	42,263	41,963	42,113
NCLIS	674	553	674	674

\*includes one-time supplemental funding of \$5.9 million for Oregon Health Network

For library programs there is good news and bad news. The Library Services and Construction Act titles I and III have been raised to their authorized ceilings of \$65 million and \$15 million respectively, the highest levels ever appropriated for public library services and interlibrary cooperation. (Last year's \$50 million for LSCA II in the emergency jobs supplemental was also the highest amount ever appropriated for public library construction.) The Senate version of HR 3913, passed on October 4, increased LSCA I but left LSCA III at '83 levels, but House-Senate conferees agreed to the higher House figure.



House and Senate figures also differed on the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, with the Senate maintaining level funding, but the House dipping to the President's budget request. Conferees kept the Senate's \$674,000, avoiding a cutback in NCLIS' staff and activities.

The bad news is that the conferees went along with the Senate on the Higher Education Act title II-A College Library Resources program, which means that there will be no funds for college library grants in FY 1984. The Senate Appropriations Committee report (S. Rept. 98-247) on HR 3913 explained its action on II-A:

The Committee recommends that no funds be included for the college library resources program, a decrease of \$1,920,000 from the fiscal year 1983 and House level. The administration had requested no funds for this program in fiscal year 1984. The Committee concurs with the administration's request because the program provides financial assistance to post-secondary institutions for the acquisitions of library materials and networking activities without regard to the institution's financial capacity. Virtually every institution is eligible for assistance regardless of their financial need provided that maintenance of effort requirements are met. Grants averaging \$870 will be awarded during the 1983-84 academic year to approximately three-fourths of the Nation's colleges and universities, including vocational and technical schools, to purchase books, periodicals, and other materials. (The average award was \$840 for the 1982-83 academic year.) The Committee shares the administration's concern over the lack of any needs-based standards for making such awards and recommends that the program be modified accordingly before consideration is given to any future appropriation.

The challenge is clearly to the authorizing subcommittees of Congress as they begin the Higher Education Act reauthorization process. Suggestions from the library community as to how II-A might be restructured would be welcomed by the ALA Washington Office. FY '84 will be the first time since HEA funding began in FY 1966 that II-A is without funds. Funding is continued at '83 levels for HEA II-B training and research and II-C research libraries.

Postal. A new postal funding bill (HR 4139) is about to be brought up for a House floor vote. An earlier version (HR 3191) of the FY 1984 Treasury-Postal Service Appropriations Bill was defeated June 8 over an abortion amendment. The new bill, as did the old, provides the full \$879 million needed for the postal revenue foregone subsidy to avoid nonprofit rate increases. A pending Senate bill (S. 1646) provides only \$802 million for postal revenue foregone. At that level of subsidy, a 2-lb. 4th-class library rate book would cost 51¢ compared with the current 47¢.

ACTION NEEDED: There is once again a danger of controversial amendments being attached to HR 4139, which may be brought to a House floor vote before the end of the month. Immediately urge your Representative to vote yes on HR 4139 to avoid unanticipated postal increases when the current continuing resolution expires on November 10.

NEH. Also on its way to the President is the FY 1984 Interior Appropriations bill (HR 3363) which includes funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities. The President requested \$112.2 million, a 14 percent reduction from the '83 level of \$130,060,000. The House provided \$150 million, the Senate \$130 million; and conferees split the difference at \$140 million. Conferees agreed with the House in earmarking \$3 million of the total for public libraries, a category NEH would have folded into "Program Development."

### National Library Symbol

As a follow-up to ALA's adoption of the national library symbol at the Annual Conference in 1982, ALA recommended to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that a new service sign representing libraries be added to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The symbol is a graphic representation of a person reading a book and is already in use in a number of communities to direct people to a library. Earlier this year an advisory committee to the FHWA reviewed the ALA proposal and recommended that the use of the symbol be rejected. Instead, the advisory committee recommended that a sign using the word message LIBRARY be adopted with white lettering on a green background since it would be considered a directional sign. It is anticipated that this recommendation will be published for public comment by the FHWA in the Federal Register in late November. In order to make an effective response to the Federal Register notice, ALA will need photos and other examples of the symbol already in use on directional signs to libraries. Please try to develop support for this effort in your state transportation departments and anticipate the needed response from the public -- librarians, friends, trustees, educators, graphic designers -- all those who realize that finding libraries is important in our society. Send your comments to Peggy Barber, ALA Public Information Office.

### Standards for Federal Librarians

Donald Devine, Director of the Office of Personnel Management, has informed Congress that OPM is continuing to consider changes in its proposed qualification standards for federal librarians, based on the comments they received on earlier drafts and on the General Accounting Office report. Devine's 20-page October 11 statement is his response to the questions raised in the mid-August GAO review of the proposed standards, which librarians and some members of Congress charge will downgrade the profession (see September 26 ALA Washington Newsletter, p. 3).

Devine defends both the planned lowering of entry grade levels for librarians with less than a two-year MLS degree and the statistical methodology which OPM used in developing the proposed standards. GAO had recommended that OPM consider conducting statistically reliable occupational surveys to enhance the credibility of its proposals, but according to Devine: "OPM does enough fact finding at each grade level to feel confident we have seen all the variations." The OPM statement includes a table OPM says proves that federal librarians who do not hold the MLS degree are as successful as MLS graduates. On a subsequent page a caveat about the accuracy of the data is offered: "Education levels reported ... may or may not reflect current employee education, since the data on education are collected primarily at the time of initial appointment and are only voluntarily updated thereafter." Nowhere in the OPM response do they acknowledge that some of these employees may have qualified for the current series on the basis of a stiff equivalency examination which OPM has eliminated in the proposed revision.

The ALA steering committee on the standards is analyzing the OPM statement and plans to submit a Freedom of Information Act request to OPM to obtain data which apparently OPM worked from in preparing the statement but which has not been available to the public.

### NEH Grant Deadline

January 23 is the deadline for NEH proposals to study the condition of the humanities through analysis of existing data resources. Six broad subjects are of particular interest to NEH: the state of the disciplines in the humanities, financing the humanities, humanities education, humanities programming for the out-of-school public, the humanities labor force, and trends in the demand for and use of humanities resources. Write: Office of Program & Policy Studies, Rm. 402, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C. 20506.



STATUS OF LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO LIBRARIANS  98th Congress, 1st Session Convened January 3, 1983 Chart Date: October 21, 1983	HOUSE					SENATE					FINAL ACTION		
	Introduced	Hearings Reported by Subcommittee	Committee Report Number	Floor Action		Introduced	Hearings Reported by Subcommittee	Committee Report Number	Floor Action		Conference Report	Final Passage	Public Law
Bicentennial of Constitution	S 118			X		S 118		68	X				PL 93-101
Cable Telecommunications Act	HR 4103	X				S 66	X	67	X				
Copyright - Home Recording	HR 175, 1030					S 32	X	162	X				
Correctional Education Assistance	HR 3684					S 625							
ECIA Technical Amendments	HR 1035	X	X	51	X	S 1008		X	156	X			
Foreign Language Assistance	HR 2708	X	X	162		S 1795							
Freedom of Information Act Amendments						S 774	X	221					
Information Science & Technology Act	HR 480												
LSCA Reauthorization	HR 2878	X	X	165									
Math & Science Education	HR 1310	X		6	X	S 1285	X	X	151				
Medical Library Assistance Act Extension	HR 2350		X	191		S 773	X		110				
National Archives - Independence	HR 3987					S 905	X	X					
NHPRC Reauthorization	HR 2196	X	X	129	X	S 1513			219	X			
Political Advocacy Restrictions						S 1405							
Public Works	HR 1036	X		199	X	S 724	X		94				
Revenue Sharing Extension	HR 2780	X		179	X	S 1426	X		199	X			
Taxation - Computer Contributions	HR 91, 701					S 1194							
Taxation - Libraries as Public Charities	HR 2183					S 1649							
Taxation - Manuscript Donations	HR 1285					S 427, 776							
Taxation - Thor Power Tool	HR 3004					S 1105							
Telephone Rate Legislation	HR 4102	X	X			S 1660	X		270				
<u>Appropriations</u>													
Continuing Resolution, FY 1984	HJRes 368			374	X	HJRes 368			X	397			PL 93-107
Supplemental Approp., FY 1984	HR 3959			375	X				275				
Agriculture, FY 1984	HR 3223	X	X	231	X	HR 3223	X	X	160	X			
Commerce, State Dept., FY 1984	HR 3222	X	X	232	X	S 1721	X	X	206				
HUD, Indep. Agencies, FY 1984	HR 3133	X	X	223	X	HR 3133	X	X	152	X	264	X	PL 98-45
Interior, FY 1984	HR 3363	X	X	253	X	HR 3363	X	X	134	X	399	X	
Labor-HHS-Education, FY 1984	HR 3913	X	X	357	X	HR 3913	X	X	247	X	422	X	
Legislative, FY 1984	HR 3135	X	X	227	X	HR 3135	X	X	161	X	271	X	PL 98-51
Treasury, Postal, FY 1984	HR 4139	X	X	417		S 1646	X	X	136				

For bills, reports & laws write: House & Senate Doc. Rms., U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515 & 20510 respectively.