



ALA Washington Newsletter

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- Attachments: 1) ALA Resolution on Telecommunications
2) Status of Legislation Chart dated April 13, 1984

LSCA Reauthorization

S. 2490, a five-year reauthorization of the Library Services and Construction Act, was approved unanimously April 12 by the Senate Education, Arts, and Humanities Subcommittee with only a few minor amendments. The detailed listing of uses of funds for programs for the elderly was made optional; library service to the elderly would remain a priority under LSCA I. An additional use of funds would be included in the state library service program: "describe the manner in which funds for programs for handicapped individuals will be used to make library services more accessible to such individuals".

The section providing access to the Library of Congress SCORPIO database for the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science was deleted. Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI) said this might be a temporary delay, and suggested NCLIS approach the Senate Rules and Administration Committee which has jurisdiction over LC matters. Unrelated riders added to S. 2490 included extensions of the authorizations for the National Center for Education Statistics and for the National Assessment of Educational Progress, and authorization of an endowment for Howard University. The full Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee is expected to take up S. 2490 soon after the Easter recess.

HEA Reauthorization

The House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee has completed a series of hearings on HR 5240, an extension and amendment of the Higher Education Act. ALA's witness of April 5 was Barbara Williams Jenkins, Library Director, South Carolina State College in Orangeburg. She recommended incorporation into HR 5240 of the title II-A needs criteria for college library grants and the II-D

college library technology and cooperation grants from HR 5210. (See the April 3 issue for details of the library provisions of the two bills.) Subcommittee staff are now working on combining features from both versions of title II.

LSCA Regulations

Revised final regulations for the Library Services and Construction Act were published in the March 30 Federal Register (pp. 12932-39). Proposed regulations were published for comment over a year ago (February 28, 1983), and the final regs include a summary of the comments and responses. The major change from the current regs is that regulatory provisions relating to title II, public library construction, and title IV, older readers services, are removed. The reason given is that the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, under which LSCA was last extended, authorizes no specific amount of funds for either title for fiscal years 1982, '83 or '84. However, LSCA II was funded during this period in FY 1983, and funds from the Appalachian Regional Development Act and a few other authorizations continue to be implemented through the LSCA statutory and regulatory requirements. In addition, legislation has been passed by the House (HR 2878) and is pending in the Senate (S. 2490) which would authorize \$50 million for LSCA II in FY 1985.

Telecommunications

Sen. Larry Pressler (R-SD), a member of the Senate Communications Subcommittee and sponsor of a library amendment to Senate telephone legislation earlier this year, has distributed a "Dear Colleague" to all Senators asking for Senate signatures on a letter to be sent to the Federal Communications Commission. The letter will ask the FCC to consider a library private line service under which carriers would furnish private line service to entities providing nonprofit bibliographic services (that is, public, school, academic, and medical libraries and cooperative library networks) at rates in effect on September 30, 1983, with modest annual adjustments.

ACTION NEEDED: There may still be time to urge your Senators to sign on to the letter, but Sen. Pressler's deadline is fast approaching. If you discussed this in Senate offices on Legislative Day, follow up now to make sure your Senators have signed on. Sen. Pressler said when the Senate phone bill (S. 1660) was tabled he would look for another way to protect libraries from the devastating impact of pending telecommunications increases. His new effort deserves enthusiastic support. It fits in well with a Resolution on the Role of Telecommunications in Library Service passed by the ALA Council on January 11 (see copy attached).

LC Deacidification Facility

The Senate Rules and Administration Committee devoted an afternoon recently to the problem of book preservation, complete with a slide/tape presentation by the Library of Congress. The occasion was a hearing on S. 2418, a bill introduced by Committee Chairman Charles Mathias (R-MD) with cosponsors Ford, Hatfield, Warner and Inouye to authorize LC to construct a mass book deacidification facility. The building would be constructed at Fort Detrick, an army facility near Frederick, Maryland, and would include testing facilities as well as two large vacuum chambers to accommodate pallets of books to be treated with diethyl zinc vapor.

The DEZ process was developed by the Library of Congress, and will neutralize the acid in book paper and leave a zinc carbonate residue thereby extending the life of the materials 400-600 years. The life of most book paper produced since about 1850 is only 30-40 years, due to the chemicals used in the sizing process combining with moisture in the air to produce acids which cause the paper to disintegrate. Of the Library's law and general book collections, 3 million are beyond help; 10 million

would benefit from DEZ treatment. The new facility would treat 500,000 books per year at a cost of \$3-5 each. S. 2418 would authorize \$11.5 million for what LC sees as a prototype for smaller facilities elsewhere in the country.

Witnesses included Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin, LC Preservation Office Director Peter Sparks; Carolyn Harris, Preservation Department, Columbia University Libraries; Susan Martin, Library Director, Johns Hopkins University; and Gary Strong, California State Library. Harris and Martin represented the Association of Research Libraries; Gary Strong, the American Library Association. Also appearing in support were various officials from the Frederick area including Rep. Beverly Byron (D-MD).

National Archives

Independence. On April 10 the House Government Operations Committee approved HR 3987, a bill to provide independent agency status for the National Archives and Records Service by separating NARS from its current parent agency, the General Services Administration. In the Senate, the Governmental Affairs Committee issued on April 3 its report on its own Archives independence bill (S. 905, S. Rept. 98-373). The Senate report cites the conflicting functions and missions between NARS and GSA resulting in divided authority and unclear responsibilities, instances of real and threatened politicization, and diminishing resources for a growing workload as reasons for recommending independence. Floor action on both bills could come shortly.

Commemorative Stamp. A twenty-cent, first-class commemorative stamp marking the 50th anniversary of the National Archives was issued at the Archives on April 16. The handsome stamp features silhouettes of Presidents Washington and Lincoln and the motto of the Archives, "What is Past is Prologue".

National Library Week

Legislative Day. The participation in Legislative Day on April 10 exceeded last year's record high with about 356 library supporters from 42 states and the District of Columbia taking part in the day of visits to Congressional offices. Several other states contributed financial support, although they did not send participants. Indications are that the Congressional response to their library visitors was even more positive than in the previous two years, and that there is little support for the elimination of library programs as proposed in the Administration's budget. Librarian Rep. Major Owens (D-NY) delivered a stirring speech at the wrap-up session and told library supporters how important it is for them to bring their message from the grassroots to Congress, not only on Legislative Day, but to keep their legislators informed on a continuing basis about how effective the library programs are and how important it is that they be adequately funded. He assured them that their voices count and that only they have the expertise to say how the programs are working.

Rep. Owens' Special Order. On April 11 Rep. Major Owens (D-NY) arranged for a special order at the end of the legislative day when Members of the House could make one-minute speeches on the subject of National Library Week. Twenty-seven Members participated either on the 11th or 12th. Rep. Owens, formerly a librarian, started off by discussing the importance of libraries to excellence in education. See the April 11 Congressional Record, pp. H2745-55 for his speech and those of Reps. Thomas of GA, Staggers, Goodling, Rangel, Frank, Frenzel, Ford of MI, Wortley, Rowland, Derrick, Spratt, Clinger, Oberstar, Conyers, Morrison of CT, Kennelly, and Dwyer of NJ (p. H2777). Speeches on April 12 were by Young of FL (p. E1616), Weiss (p. E1625), Madigan (p. E1625-6), Bevill (p. E1634), Fuqua (p. E1642), Biaggi (p. E1646-7), Towns (p. E1664-5), Solarz (p. E1673), and Rahall (p. E1682). Sen. D'Amato (R-NY) also made brief remarks (April 12 CR, p. S4670).

NEH Budget Hearings

On April 12, Rep. Sidney Yates (D-IL), chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, heard a panel of library witnesses urge Congress to continue funding for library programs as a line item in the FY 1985 budget for the National Endowment for the Humanities. ALA Executive Director Robert Wedgeworth was joined by Ching-chih Chen of Simmons College, Dean Burgess from the Portsmouth, VA Public Library, and Bernard Vavrek from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Each testified based on their own experience with humanities projects in libraries which helped NEH reach general audiences with quality programming.

The panel expressed their concern at the NEH proposal to include Humanities Projects in Libraries with Humanities Programs for Adults with a recommended total funding of \$2.99 million, a 32.8 percent cut in funding for both adult and library programs in FY 1984 (see March 2 ALA Washington Newsletter, pp. 1-2). Ching-chih Chen pointed out that this proposed reduction would be "...the most severe budget cut among all NEH programs." She also gave examples of several actions of NEH in recent years which have had a detrimental impact on the effectiveness of the Humanities Projects in Libraries and which have resulted in a decline in the number of grant applications from libraries to the Endowment. Yet, in spite of underbudgeting and neglect by NEH, the library program has managed to continue to provide support for many "...truly landmark projects having a broad impact and significant contribution to the strengthening and upgrading of the quality of adult education in humanities for the average citizen."

Robert Wedgeworth described the "Let's Talk About It" project now underway in which ALA, with support from the Endowment, will direct and promote a program of book discussions in 150 libraries throughout the United States. In explaining that libraries have been able to do a lot with a little, he pointed out that:

In FY 1983, according to Endowment records, grants totaling \$2,706,000 were awarded to 25 library systems, resulting in programs in 266 libraries nationwide. These programs reached over two and one-half million people. That is barely over \$1.00 per person, surely an economy not matched by any other agency in terms of the values transmitted directly to the people. The cultural enrichment gained is not a consumable commodity, it is truly an investment that multiplies and yields continuous dividends.

ACTION NEEDED: Urge Senators and Representatives on the Appropriations Committees to continue funding Humanities Projects in Libraries as a line item in the FY 1985 budget for the National Endowment for the Humanities at least at the \$3 million FY 1984 level.

ACCESS TO ALANET

ALANET, ALA's electronic mail and information service, is now open to ALA personal members and to nonmember organizations. Personal members may subscribe to ALANET using their VISA or MasterCard. Nonmember organizations are assessed a subscription fee of \$100 per year (refunded upon joining ALA). For further information contact Joel Lee, ALANET System Manager, ALA Headquarters Library, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611 (312/944-6780).

The ALA Washington Office uses ALANET to send urgent legislative alerts to key legislative contacts, and for ALA WASHINGTON NEWSLINE, a database which updates federal developments affecting libraries at least every two weeks. Our electronic mail address is ALA.WASHINGTON.

RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN LIBRARY SERVICE

- WHEREAS, the American Library Association is committed to the enhancement of library and information services through automated processes; and
- WHEREAS, ALA has actively supported the development of national standards and systems for achieving automated delivery of library service to the nation's library users; and
- WHEREAS, ALA and its members recognize the central role of telecommunications in the creation and delivery of information, some of which is solely available through telecommunications; and
- WHEREAS, the answering of telephone reference questions and information and referral inquiries has been a long-standing staple of library service to the public, a service that may in many cases be diminished by price increases in local phone calls; and
- WHEREAS, recent developments in the telecommunications industry threaten to weaken the efforts of librarians to share resources and enhance service delivery to the nation's library users by raising library telecommunications prices as much as 183 percent; and
- WHEREAS, ALA members are concerned that such price increases will force drastic reallocations of funds away from library service and toward telecommunications charges; and
- WHEREAS, Federal policy as applied to libraries has recognized their public service functions and encouraged library development and resource-sharing through reduced library postal rates, Higher Education Act legislation, and Library Services and Construction Act legislation; and
- WHEREAS, both the Congress and the Federal Communications Commission have before them legislation and regulation of critical importance to maintaining affordable telecommunications;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Library Association respectfully request the Congress and the Federal Communications Commission reject access charges for library telecommunications pricing to create a library public-service tariff, and implement any new tariff increases gradually over a period of years.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Washington, D.C.
January 11, 1984
(Council Document #31.1)

STATUS OF LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO LIBRARIANS 98th Congress, 2nd Session Convened January 23, 1984 Chart Date: April 13, 1984	HOUSE					SENATE					Conference	
	Introduced	Hearings	Reported by Subcommittee	Committee Report No.	Floor Action	Introduced	Hearings	Reported by Subcommittee	Committee Report No.	Floor Action		
Adult Ed. Act Reauthorization	HR 11	X	X			S 2496	X	X				
Cable Telecommunications Act	HR 4103	X	X			S 66	X		67	X		
Congressional Budget Resolution	HConRes 280	X		645	X		X					
Copyright - Home Recording	HR 175, 1030					S 32	X		162	X		
Correctional Education Assistance	HR 3684					S 625						
Depository Library Tribute						SRes 359					X	
Foreign Language Assistance	HR 2708	X	X	162		S 1795						
Freedom of Information Act Amendments						S 774	X		221	X		
Higher Ed. Act Reauthorization	HR 5240, 5210	X										
Information Science & Technology Act	HR 480											
LC Deacidification Facility						S 2418	X					
LC-Study Changing Role of Book	SConRes 59			451	X	SConRes 59			200	X		no
LSCA Reauthorization	HR 2878	X	X	165	X	S 2490	X	X				
Math & Science Education	HR 1310	X		6	X	S 1285	X	X	151			
Medical Library Assistance Act Extension	HR 2350		X	191	X	S 773	X		110			
National Archives - Independence	HR 3987	X	X			S 905	X	X	373			
Paperwork Reduction Act Amendments						S 2433						
Public Lending Right Study Commission						S 2192						
Public Works	HR 1036	X		199	X	S 724	X		94			
Single Federal Audit	HR 4821	X	X			S 1510				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, 4732					S 1105, 2086						
Telephone Rate Legislation	HR 4102	X	X	479	X	S 1660	X		270			

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