As noted below, the subscription price of this newsletter has increased from $15 to $20 per year.

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Attachments: 1) Resolution Concerning Zero Funding of Library Programs
2) Resolution on HEA Title II Programs
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4) Committee Lists - House & Senate Appropriations and Budget Committees
5) January 21 Congressional Record Reprints - Sen. Pell and Rep. Ford WHCLIS legislation statements

Appropriations, FY '87 & '88

Rescissions. The House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee estimates that the 45-legislative-day period for congressional consideration of the President's proposal to rescind or defund various library and education programs will expire on March 8. Since no congressional action to approve the rescission proposal seems imminent, presumably all funds will be released after that date.

Library programs proposed for rescission were $22.5 million for the Library Services and Construction Act title II public library construction, $5 million for LSCA VI library literacy programs, $1 million for the Higher Education Act title II-B library training and research, and $6 million for HEA II-C research library grants.

FY '88 Budget. House and Senate Budget Committee members of both parties have been sharply critical of the Administration's FY 1988 education budget at hearings in recent weeks. The exchanges included some library references. Sen. Jim Sasser (D-TN) asked Secretary of Education William Bennett about the contradiction between his zero budget for libraries and his call in First Lessons for every child to have a public library card by the end of the 1986-87 school year.
House Budget Committee Chairman William Gray (D-PA) asked Bennett to explain the 100 percent cut in library assistance in light of the President's State of the Union Message which called for raising literacy levels dramatically by the year 2000. At the same hearing, Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN) had so heated an exchange with Bennett over the proposed elimination of library programs that Chairman Gray had to ask both to "maintain a decorum." Oberstar asked what reform objective was served by zeroing out funds for libraries. Bennett said there was no reform objective, but there was a budget deficit. Pressed further, Bennett said education and library funding could be picked up by the states. Oberstar heatedly concluded: "It's a matter of values. I disagree with yours." "Fine," said Bennett, "all things considered, I'll take mine over yours."

ACTION NEEDED: Some Budget Committee members have indicated that they have not heard much from constituents on the Education Department budget. This is the time to contact Budget and Appropriations Committee members to urge that the Administration's budget for library programs and postal revenue forgone be rejected. Give details about whichever program affects your library's services, and urge adequate funding. See the committee lists attached to this newsletter. See also the attached resolutions on zero funding and on HEA II programs passed by the ALA Council on January 21. Plan to participate in Library Legislative Day on April 7 during National Library Week. Your state chapter Federal Relations Coordinator has details.

LC & GPO Budgets

ALA Witnesses. A heavy Washington snowstorm played havoc with the schedule for public witnesses before the House Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee. Ready to testify February 23 for ALA were Immediate Past President Beverly Lynch, University Librarian, University of Illinois at Chicago, in support of the Library of Congress budget request; and Katherine Mawdsley, Assistant University Librarian for Public Services, University of California at Davis, on adequate funding for the Government Printing Office. Both made useful congressional contacts and filed statements, but were unable to stay until February 25 when the hearing was rescheduled. Others who either testified or filed statements on LC or GPO or both included Kaye Gapen and Malcolm Getz for the Association of Research Libraries; Page Miller, National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History; Sandy Morton, Special Libraries Association; and Robert Oakley, American Association of Law Libraries.

LC. Outgoing Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin began his last round of budget hearings with a February 5 appearance before the House Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee. He requested a total of $271,365,000 for FY 1988, a 15.2 percent increase over FY 1987, but only 13.7 percent above the level available to LC three years ago in FY 1985.

Chairman Vic Fazio (D-CA) ranged in his questions from the Library's experience under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction cuts to an exploration of the LC's development of the controversial diethyl zinc (DEZ) book deacidification process, and from the effects of the decline of the U.S. dollar on the ability to acquire foreign materials to his concern that the various automated systems at LC be coordinated.

Boorstin added a few personal notes to his testimony, thanking the Subcommittee, its staff, and his Library colleagues for their support. He also added these observations about the congressional hearing process:
The opportunity to participate in Congressional hearings has offered me the privilege of taking part in a uniquely American institution... In other countries—even free countries—the executive makes its budgets behind closed doors. Your committee and others of our Congress offer an open public forum for hearing the reasons of those who ask for public funds and of those who object. This is a special feature of our American democratic government. Because of its familiarity we may not value it enough.

GPO. Witnesses from the congressional Joint Committee on Printing and from the Government Printing Office appeared before the House Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee on February 25. GPO's original request for the Superintendent of Documents operation for FY 1988 was $24.5 million, of which $3.5 million would be transferred from the Revolving Fund, representing excess receipts from the sale of publications. However, Public Printer Ralph Kennickell announced that he is requesting an additional $2 million from the Revolving Fund—$1.2 million to fund the additional costs of hard-copy publications, and $800,000 at the request of the Joint Committee on Printing to fund a pilot study dealing with the electronic transmission of information to depository libraries.

Both GPO and JCP witnesses were asked about the dual format issue and the electronic pilot projects. Kennickell indicated the proposal to eliminate hard copy for dual format (microfiche and paper) publications was prompted by the necessity to make budget cuts. However, after protests from librarians, JCP directed GPO to continue to provide hard copy to depository libraries that requested it. GPO witnesses indicated they did not ask for a supplemental for this purpose; they expect current funding will be adequate through FY '87.

Chairman Fazio expressed concern about the conflicting information from GPO and librarians on such items as the timeliness of publications in microfiche and the cost of fiche reader-printers. "We should step back and study this," he said to GPO, "work with the Joint Committee on Printing and the Depository Library Council." Kennickell indicated he would revisit the issue at the spring council meeting.

A January 14 report to the JCP of the Ad Hoc Committee on Depository Library Access to Federal Automated Data Bases was placed in the hearing record. It calls for $5.5 million in federal funds over five years for an experiment ultimately involving at least one test library in each congressional district, and establishment of a Pilot Project Office at GPO. Both Fazio and Kennickell expressed some hesitancy about the pilots. Fazio indicated the information industry felt that JCP members were not fully aware of staff activity regarding the pilot projects. JCP staff director Tom Kleis noted that JCP had initiated the exploration of electronic access, and detailed their earlier involvement. The January 14 report would be on JCP's agenda at its March meeting; Chairman Frank Annunzio (D-IL) had approved the request for $800,000 in FY '88 in order not to delay start-up a full year.

ACTION NEEDED: Constituents of House and Senate Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee members (see attached lists) should continue to be in touch with them on issues related to LC and GPO funding. There were some joking references at the hearing to the impassioned tone of letters from librarians on the dual format issue, so well-documented follow-up is needed. Attached to this newsletter is the Resolution on GPO Appropriations passed by the ALA Council on January 21. JCP members also need to hear about the importance of providing government information in electronic formats to the public through libraries, and of prompt start-up of pilot projects to test the feasibility of such access.
WHCLIS II

Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI) and Rep. William Ford (D-MI) introduced on January 21 identical measures, S.J.Res. 26 and H.J.Res. 90, authorizing a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1989. Sen. Pell intends to hold hearings this spring. Two changes from the resolutions pending in the last Congress are that state participation in state-level preliminary conferences and the national conference is optional rather than mandatory, and state and territorial delegates and alternates may participate in preliminary conferences, rather than being required to participate.

Both Sen. Pell and Rep. Ford invited cosponsors. Those who have signed on as of February 19 include Sens. Bentsen (D-TX), Bumpers (D-AR), Byrd (D-WV), Chafee (R-RI), Cochran (R-MS), Dodd (D-CT), Gore (D-TN), Hatfield (R-OR), Heinz (R-PA), Hollings (D-SC), Inouye (D-HI), Kennedy (D-MA), Kerry (D-MA), Melcher (D-MT), Moynihan (D-NY), Packwood (R-OR), Pressler (R-SD), Pryor (D-AR), Riegle (D-MI), Rockefeller (D-WV), Sarbanes (D-MD), and Wirth (D-CO); and Reps. Boucher (D-VA), Hammerschmidt (R-AR), Gmume (D-MD), Ravenel (R-SC), Spence (R-SC), and Weber (R-MN).

A January 21 Congressional Record reprint which includes the text of the resolution and both the Pell and Ford introductory statements is attached to this newsletter.

ACTION NEEDED: A total of 172 Representatives and 50 Senators signed on to the measures pending in the 99th Congress. Thank this year’s early sponsors and cosponsors, urge previous cosponsors who have returned to Washington to sign on to the new measures, and ask new legislators to add their names also.

IRS Lobbying Regulations

Senators Daniel Moynihan (D-NY) and Bob Packwood (R-OR) sent to the Internal Revenue Service on February 24 a joint letter signed by a total of 16 Senate Finance Committee members urging the IRS to withdraw the proposed regulations governing lobbying by nonprofit organizations. Others who cosigned the letter included Sens. Baucus, Boren, Bradley, Chafee, Danforth, Daschle, Durenberger, Heinz, Matsunaga, Mitchell, Pryor, Riegle, Rockefeller, and Roth.

IRS published the proposed regulations in the November 5, 1986, Federal Register, pp. 40211-32, and later extended the deadline for comments until April 3 (January 9, 1987, FR, p. 802). For background, see the January 16 ALA Washington Newsletter.

ALA has signed on to a statement developed by Independent Sector, an organization of not-for-profits to which ALA belongs, which is being distributed widely to Members of Congress and to the Administration. The statement, to which some 225 organizations have signed on, reads as follows:

We strongly oppose the proposed regulations restricting the public policy influence of voluntary and philanthropic organizations. The regulations are inconsistent with the purpose of the 1976 Tax Reform Act and, if adopted, could severely limit the ability of these organizations to engage in public policy debates and traditional educational and grassroots activities. We urge the IRS to withdraw these proposed regulations immediately, and, instead, to form an advisory committee composed of representatives of the public and private sector to draft rules that will properly implement the 1976 act.
ACTION NEEDED: ALA Chapters or other 501(c)(3) organizations concerned about the proposed regulations should consider sending a letter similar to the above statement to the IRS. It is also timely to express your concerns to your legislators. Constituents of Senate Finance Committee members mentioned above should thank them for their joint letter. Sens. DeConcini (D-AZ) and D'Amato (R-NY) now have a similar letter seeking cosponsors in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Members of that committee need to hear from constituents.

Freedom of Information Act

The Office of Management and Budget published proposed guidelines and fee schedule to implement certain provisions of the Freedom of Information Reform Act of 1986 (PL 99-570) in the January 16 Federal Register, pp. 1992-94. ALA, in comments to OMB, recommended that the proposed guidelines be revised and a new draft be published for public comment, because the proposal exceeds OMB's statutory responsibility and is not in keeping with the legislative history of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) amendments. The February 13 ALA letter said the proposed fee waiver policy was highly restrictive, and the proposed guidelines could have a detrimental affect on the ability of librarians, libraries, and their users to secure fee waivers as public interest users of the FOIA.

Department of Education Library

The U.S. Department of Education Research Library reopened with ceremonies February 24. The library is the largest federally funded library in the world devoted solely to education, and has over 200,000 books, 1500 periodicals, plus reports and other materials. Established in 1973 following creation of the former National Institute of Education, its collections were in storage for several months following a move of ED's Office of Educational Research and Improvement. Many of the library's services are available to the public. Contact Dept. of Education Research Library, First Floor, 80 F St. NW, Washington, DC 20208, 202/357-7122 (Reference, 357-6692; Interlibrary Loan, 357-6238).

Committee for Education Funding Budget Analysis

The Committee for Education Funding, a 19-year-old coalition of about 90 education organizations to which ALA belongs, has published its Education Budget Alert for Fiscal Year 1988. This annual volume provides Congress and the public with basic information about federal education programs and analyzes the impact of the President's budget proposal. CEF notes that the Administration seeks to reduce FY 1988 federal education funding by 28 percent, and that 43 percent of all the FY 1987 rescissions proposed are taken from Education Department programs.

The Education Budget Alert includes sections on library and postal programs contributed by the ALA Washington Office. Copies may be ordered by ALA members for $14.00, and by nonmembers for $17.00. Send a check and mailing label to the Committee for Education Funding, 11 Dupont Circle, Suite 150, Washington, DC 20036.

Congressional Recess Schedule

Future congressional recesses, although always subject to change, are scheduled as follows for both the House and Senate:

Easter, April 11-20    Independence Day, July 2-6
Memorial Day, May 22-26    August/Labor Day, August 8-September 8
Resolution Concerning Zero Funding of Library Programs

WHEREAS, The role of libraries in ensuring an enlightened citizenry and a knowledgeable populace is well recognized; and

WHEREAS, All major federal library programs have enjoyed bipartisan support since the initial legislation for public libraries was enacted in 1956; and

WHEREAS, These programs contribute to the overarching goal of achieving literacy and equal educational opportunities for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Fiscal constraints and the elimination of general revenue sharing are having serious effects on the ability of libraries to deliver essential services; and

WHEREAS, The Administration's budget recommends that no federal funds be appropriated in fiscal year 1988 for the continuance of federal library grant programs; and

WHEREAS, The Administration has also proposed rescission of funds already appropriated in fiscal year 1987 for several of these programs; and

WHEREAS, These programs have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate the importance of using federal aid as a stimulus to encourage state and local initiatives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association recommend that Congress strongly reject the proposed elimination of funding for federal library programs as well as the proposed rescission of already appropriated funds.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Chicago, Illinois
January 21, 1987
(Council Document #26)
Resolution on Higher Education Act Title II Programs

WHEREAS, Education has been identified as a priority area for national improvement; and

WHEREAS, Academic and research libraries are among the principal agencies providing access to recorded knowledge; and

WHEREAS, Academic and research libraries have been able to acquire a decreasing percentage of needed books and serials as prices have far outpaced increases in book budgets; and

WHEREAS, An increasing percentage of relevant research, including government information and scientific and technical reports will be available only in machine-readable form; and

WHEREAS, Access to knowledge is increasingly important to the U. S. competitive position in the world economy; and

WHEREAS, Title II-A of the Higher Education Act bases grant eligibility on need criteria requested by Congress and developed by the library community; and

WHEREAS, Title II-A provides grants of sufficient size to aid collection development of needy institutions; and

WHEREAS, Title II-B of the Higher Education Act creates opportunities for individuals, many of them minorities, to receive training in librarianship and information technologies, and provides for needed research for the improvement of information services; and

WHEREAS, Title II-C permits research institutions to acquire unique collections for scholarly investigation, to preserve thousands of fragile and irreplaceable volumes, and to make them accessible to scholars nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Title II-D will permit many academic libraries to strengthen their support of instruction and research by acquiring appropriate technologies to facilitate access to information and promote resource sharing; and

WHEREAS, The Act calls for the appointment of a Department of Education official with expert knowledge of libraries and information technologies for implementation of Title II-D; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge Congress to appropriate the following sums for Higher Education Act, Title II library programs in FY 1988:

(over)
$10 million to support Title II-A programs; and

$5 million to continue the Title II-B Library Training and Research and Demonstration Programs with funding split two-thirds for training and one-third for research; and

$10 million to continue Title II-C programs as amended to aid research institutions; and

$5 million for Title II-D to provide competitive grants to eligible institutions and organizations to use information technologies to enhance library and information services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association recommend that the Department of Education appoint an official with expert knowledge of libraries and information technologies to implement Title II-D.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Chicago, Illinois
January 21, 1987
(Council Document #263)
Resolution on GPO Appropriations

WHEREAS, The Government Printing Office (GPO) Depository Library Program is the primary provider of free public access to federal government information, reaching the entire citizenry through the system of 1400 depository libraries nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Lack of budgetary resources has caused GPO to depart from past guidelines which identify appropriate publications for conversion to microfiche (SOD 13, August 22, 1983); and

WHEREAS, GPO has exceeded the limits of acceptability to users by distributing to depository libraries over 60 per cent of its current titles in microfiche; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Printing is reviewing pilot projects for the dissemination of government information in electronic format to increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the provision of government information to the public; and

WHEREAS, The GPO appropriation for FY 1987, totaling $22,256,000, is less than the 1986 appropriation for library programs and not adequate to continue needed programs such as dual distribution (paper and microfiche) of major publications central to the activities of a democratic government and heavily used by the public, such as the Code of Federal Regulations and congressional hearings, prints, and reports; and

WHEREAS, GPO's funding request for FY 1988 is only $21,000,000 based on an unacceptable increase in the number of publications to be converted to microfiche; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge Congress to appropriate emergency supplemental funding for FY 1987 library programs at least at the FY 1986 level; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge Congress to appropriate adequate funds for FY 1988 to provide for:

continuation of current library programs including distribution of government publications in paper, microfiche, or dual format, as appropriate for user needs; and

the implementation of the pending pilot projects for the distribution of government information in electronic format to depository libraries, and to appropriate funds to provide for the issue of adequate and long-term preservation of government information in electronic form; and

development of programs utilizing new technologies, such as distribution of information on compact disk; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to appropriate committees of Congress and the Public Printer.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Chicago, Illinois
January 21, 1987
(Council Document 136.)
American Library Association
Washington Office
February 1987

(See over for Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies, Legislative, and Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government.)
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February 1987

(See over for Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor-HHS-Education, Legislative, and Treasury - Postal Service - General Government.)
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