

Six Month Report on ALA Washington Office Activities

Sen. Durbin, FCC Leaders Address ALA Midwinter Meeting

The ALA Washington Office organized a number of a 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) are 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.

OFFICE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY

OITP Releases 3D Printer Policy Report

In January, OITP released “Progress in the Making: 3D Printing Policy Considerations Through the Library Lens,” a new report that encourages libraries to take a proactive role in developing institutional policies that address the social, technological and political complexities that will result from the rise of 3D printing. In the report, OITP Information Policy Analyst Charlie Wapner outlines the role 3D printing now plays in libraries and formal centers for learning, and analyzes a number of policy issues, including copyright, trademark, trade dress and product liability, that may arise from 3D printing in public, school and academic libraries. The report also examines various intellectual freedom issues in a section drafted by Deborah Caldwell-Stone of OIF.

Library Leaders: E-Rate Opportunities Take Center Stage

At the start of the Midwinter Meeting in Chicago, OITP announced the launch of [“Got E-rate?”](#) a new initiative that encourages library directors to apply for internet discounts as part of the national E-rate program. The initiative is a response to the FCC’s recent overhaul of the E-rate program, which included adding \$1.5 billion to the annual available funding. In the coming weeks, ALA, in collaboration with the Public Library Association (PLA), state library agencies, and other partners, will launch a series of E-rate resources, including communications, education, practical tools and technical support for librarians who are interested in applying for E-rate funding. More information is available at: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/goterate>.

Strong Coalition Calls on Libraries to Plan Now to Secure E-Rate Funding

Now that the 2015 E-rate application window is closed, several library organizations are encouraging libraries to revisit their plans for 2016 and beyond with the new opportunities in mind. In April, a broad coalition of library associations, including ALA, released a letter updating library leaders on the next phase of E-rate advocacy. Library coalition members include the American Indian Library Association; the American Library Association; the Association for Rural & Small Libraries; the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums; the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies; the Public Library

Association; and the Urban Libraries Council. A planning session is scheduled for Friday at the Annual Conference.

Commendations on E-rate

ALA President Courtney Young, ALA E-rate Task Force Chair Kathi Peiffer, and OITP Associate Director Marijke Visser presented Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler with the ALA Council resolution thanking him and the Commission for its efforts on behalf of libraries. The Council “Resolved, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members: 1) extends its deepest appreciation to Chairman Wheeler for his vision for connecting America’s libraries and schools to high-capacity broadband to best serve our communities nationwide; and 2) recognizes with gratitude Chairman Wheeler and the Commission for their unflagging work throughout the 18-month E-rate Modernization proceeding.” During this period, Marijke Visser also received ALA’s Staff Achievement Award for her work on E-rate.

ALA Seeks Feedback on Draft National Policy Agenda for Libraries

In January, OITP released for discussion a [draft policy agenda \(pdf\)](#) for librarians to guide a proactive policy shift. The draft agenda flows out of library values and the imperative of “opportunity for all,” as well as within a context of national political, economic and demographic trends and opportunities. The draft agenda articulates three broad themes to organize the national public policy goals of the U.S. library community: Services, People, and Institutional Issues. Outlining this key set of issues and context is being pursued through the [Policy Revolution! Initiative](#), led by ALA OITP and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) with guidance from a Library Advisory Committee—which includes broad representation from across the library community and Jim Neal as the Executive Board’s liaison.

ALA Applauds FCC Vote to Protect Open Internet

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted in February to assert the strongest possible open Internet protections—banning paid prioritization and the blocking and throttling of lawful content and services. ALA, a longtime network neutrality advocate, applauds this bold step forward in ensuring a fair and open Internet. During the past months, ALA has submitted formal comments, met with FCC officials, drafted articles, and worked alone and through a coalition of other library and higher education groups, including ARL and EDUCAUSE.

ALA Applauds Legislation for Increased Wi-Fi Spectrum

In February, ALA applauded the reintroduction of the Wi-Fi Innovation Act (S.424) by Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Cory Booker (D-NJ), which would help ensure the nation’s libraries and their communities have access to the spectrum needed to meet growing demands for wireless access. ALA advocates for increased Wi-Fi spectrum primarily as a member of the Wi-Fi Forward coalition, of which Larra Clark is a member.

ALA Joins Entrepreneurial Co-Working and Collaboration Panel at 2015 SXSW Interactive

In March, OITP staff member Larra Clark organized and moderated a panel of library and startup experts at the 2015 South by Southwest (SXSW) Interactive conference to explore the trend of entrepreneurial spaces in libraries. Other panelists included Nicholas Kerelchuk, manager of the D.C. Public Library Digital Commons and Jonathan Marino, director of content and strategy for MapStory, an online social mapping platform that empowers people to map historical change over time. In addition, OITP Advisory Committee member Janice Tsai served on a panel on privacy technology. While in Austin, Larra gave presentations at the state library and with the Texas Library Association.

Call For Nominations: Robert L. Oakley Memorial Scholarship

OITP is soliciting applications for the Robert L. Oakley Memorial Scholarship. Librarians interested in intellectual property, public policy and copyright have until June 1, 2015, to apply for the annual \$1,000 scholarship, which was developed by the American Library Association and the Library Copyright Alliance, and supports research and advanced study for librarians in their early-to-mid-careers.

“Digital Futures” Supplement to *American Libraries* Released

The fifth supplement to *American Libraries* on digital content was issued in late May with the theme that libraries are taking the initiative in advocacy for improved library access. This report “Digital Futures” features ten articles that include national experts and leaders such as Maura Marx, James Neal, Sari Feldman, Carolyn Anthony, Micah May, Eric Hellman, and Vailey Oehlke, with OITP director Alan S. Inouye serving as guest editor. While we acknowledge the progress made in digital content matters, much disruption is on the horizon and therefore much more work for ALA remains.

Engaged with and Supporting the Florida and Texas Chapters

Larra Clark and Charlie Wapner presented at the Florida Library Association Annual Conference in two sessions. Maker spaces and 3D printers were the focus of one session and information policy and the Policy Revolution! initiative were featured in the second session. Also during this period, Carrie Russell presented at the Texas Library Association Annual Conference and presented the L. Ray Patterson Copyright Award to Georgia Harper, recently retired from the University of Texas.

Library Broadband Speed Test Shows Increased Capacity; Room Still for Improvement

Broadband speeds in U.S. public libraries have improved significantly in recent years yet continues to lag behind national broadband connectivity standards, according to “Broadband Quality in Public Libraries,” a new report released jointly in April by the American Library Association and the Information Policy & Access Center at the University of Maryland College Park as part of the Digital Inclusion Survey of which OITP is a partner. Libraries reported progress in their public Internet speeds—nearly half of all libraries report subscribed Internet download speeds as being greater than 10 Mbps in 2013, compared with only 18 percent of libraries four years earlier.

ALA, DCWG Make Strong Showing at Book Expo America

Four representatives of ALA participated in two panel sessions and a series of publisher meetings at the 2015 Book Expo America in New York. Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels moderated one panel on library-publisher partnerships while DCWG co-chair Carolyn Anthony served on another focused on discovery. Keith and Carolyn were joined by Alan S. Inouye and Carrie Russell of OITP in meetings with Penguin Random House and a number of mid-sized publishers and industry experts.

Simon & Schuster Provides 5,000 Ebooks to Libraries During National Library Week

Working with ALA, Simon & Schuster announced the distribution of 5,000 ebook copies of the Academy Award–winning producer Brian Grazer’s new book, “A Curious Mind: The Secret to a Bigger Life” to libraries. In addition to the ebook distribution during National Library Week, Simon & Schuster cooperated with ALA to promote the program and the important role of libraries. Jonathan Karp, President and Publisher of Simon & Schuster, said, “Libraries make knowledge accessible to everyone. We could not think of any better way to honor National Library Week than by sharing a book that celebrates the quest for knowledge with libraries across the country and around the world.”

OITP Engages in Multiple Library Community Convenings

In addition to the activities described above, OITP representatives participated in an array of other activities:

- Alan S. Inouye participated in an IMLS convening on the national digital platform held in Washington, D.C.
- Carrie Russell participated in multiple meetings related to ebooks at DPLA Fest in Indianapolis, Indiana
- Larra Clark and Alan S. Inouye, with Emily Sheketoff, hosted more than a dozen information policy students from the University of Maryland for an evening of discussions on policy and lobbying at the ALA Washington Office
- Larra Clark participated in an Advisory Committee meeting on the future of the MLS for the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland
- Alan S. Inouye participated in a public policy summit at the headquarters of Google in Mountain View, California
- Larra Clark participated in a multi-day convening of international library leaders at the Gates Foundation
- Larra Clark and Alan S. Inouye participated in the Coalition for Networked Information Task Force meeting in Seattle.

Op-ed Published in *The Hill*

On May 28, Alan S. Inouye published an op-ed in *The Hill* titled “We Need a Digital Constitutional Convention.” This piece brings together a number of strands, such as the Re:Create copyright coalition, the Policy Revolution! initiative, and the NetGain initiative, as well as broad thinking about our work on copyright, net neutrality, privacy, and other areas. We anticipated further work in this vein of the integration of information policy efforts and libraries as the voice of reason in the debate.