We refer you to the ALA Washington Office Six-Month Report that gives you background information about ALA’s federal legislative activities since Midwinter 2012.

Additionally, COL brings to you the following information items:

**Broadband and Telecommunications**

The COL Subcommittee on Telecommunications continues to meet jointly with the OITP Subcommittee on Telecommunications. The joint meeting included an overview and discussion of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and updates on the E-rate program and the ongoing reform of the Universal Service Fund, recent activities on Digital Literacy initiatives and coalition activities (as a member of the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition, EdLiNC, and others). In addition, the subcommittee discussed ideas including developing a series of educational and advocacy-based webinars on telecommunications policy, regulation and legislation.

**Copyright**

After a brief legislative update, the COL Copyright Subcommittee discussed the first sale doctrine case before the U.S. Supreme Court - Kirstaeng v. Wiley. The ALA, as part of the Library Copyright Alliance (along with ACRL and ARL) will be filing an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief in the first week of July on Kirstaeng v. Wiley.

The subcommittee will continue to closely track the likely legislative priorities of the U.S. Copyright Office, as well as possible priorities of others, to anticipate any potential legislative activity. The subcommittee will focus attention on shaping advocacy messaging on potential legislative activity in the new Congress, starting in January 2013. The subcommittee will continue to hold monthly conference calls to continue its committee work.
E-Government Services

The Subcommittee on E-Government Services met once during the ALA Annual 2012 conference. The members discussed updates needed for the E-Government Toolkit and what activities they should focus on in the coming year. During the conference, the subcommittee co-sponsored a program with the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) that focused on the topic of e-government and workforce development and hope to turn that program into a webinar. The subcommittee will continue to hold monthly conference calls to continue its committee work.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and School Libraries

The Committee on Legislation discussed and reviewed the challenges and successes in ALA’s efforts to support school library programs and how COL can further contribute its efforts on behalf of school libraries. There have been severe cuts to school library services at every level of government—local, state, and federal. COL remains committed to working with all parts of ALA to push for effective school library programs that include state-certified school librarians.

The COL continues to function under the policies that reiterated ALA’s commitment to school library programs via a resolution at the 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. when over 2,000 librarians took the “save school libraries” message to Capitol Hill as part of ALA’s “Legislation Action Day on the Hill.” Even after the conference, many school library supporters took the ALA resolution to their congressional legislators to ask them to support federal funding for school libraries. Since then, the U.S. Congress has redirected other funds to be used to update school libraries in low-income school districts. More recently on June 14, 2012, ALA was successful in getting the Senate Appropriations Committee to approve a slight increase in FY 2013 for school libraries in the “Innovative Approaches to Literacy” program. While this is a small increase, this is an important step forward, in an extremely demanding political environment, by the Senate Appropriations Committee in recognizing the importance of school libraries. Obviously, there is still a long way to go.

The COL has worked under the principles of the 2010 resolution, supporting the ALA and the Office of Government Relations in the Washington Office to lobby the U.S. Congress and the Administration for increased school library funding, as well as including school libraries in the ESEA. In looking to renew ALA’s policy statements on these school library issues, COL encourages ALA to articulate support for school libraries in terms oriented toward student achievement and grassroots efforts at the state and local levels as well as an increased focus on external, non-library audiences and potential allies.
Government Information

The Government Information Subcommittee (GIS) hosted one meeting at ALA Annual 2012. The meeting was held jointly with the Government Documents Round Table’s (GODORT) Legislation Committee. During this meeting, the subcommittee received an update from the chair of the Committee on Legislation’s Federal Depository Library Program Taskforce, Maggie Farrell. They also discussed the future of the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey and questions that had been posed to the Association by the Joint Committee on Printing. The Subcommittee will continue the discussion on conference calls.

Grassroots Subcommittee

At the Saturday Grassroots Advocacy Subcommittee meeting members discussed ways to move forward with the various working groups for which they serve. Members of the subcommittee’s Return on Investment (ROI) Working Group recently completed a bibliography of ROI resources that will be posted online and shared with other ALA offices and divisions. Two new working groups were established. One new group will work on developing tools to facilitate engaging trustees as advocates. Another new working group is assigned to create a marketing plan for subcommittee resources. Lastly, members discussed ways to promote Mobile Commons, a new texting and calling advocacy tool launched in April 2012.

At the Sunday Grassroots Advocacy Subcommittee meeting members broke into their various working groups to brainstorm and develop new resources for the subcommittee. The Social Media Working Group developed a flow chart for new social media users. The Marketing Working Group discussed ways to better advertise and promote the free webinars that the Washington Office hosts and archives online. The Trustee Working Group developed a Q&A document, and members were given notes written by the chair and staff liaison on Stephanie Vance’s “Education, Advocacy, and Lobbying” webinar. The notes were distributed to spark future discussion on better defining the terms “advocacy” and “grassroots”.

In the coming months, the COL will be monitoring, in conjunction with IRC, the UNESCO funding issues that may come before Congress. The committee is also considering if and how to reconstitute a privacy subcommittee and how to recruit and orient new supporters to become involved in ALA’s legislative grassroots activities.

This ends our report at this Annual Conference. Thank you for your time and consideration.