

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: Washington Office Report to Executive Board of Directors

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

Washington Office activities from the last quarter

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

None

CONTACT PERSON: Emily Sheketoff

DATE: January 3, 2012

Executive Summary

On December 16 the U.S. House of Representatives and on December 17 the U.S. Senate approved a \$915 billion budget bill for FY 2012. In the new federal budget, Congress appropriated **\$28.6 million** for literacy. A minimum of half, or \$14.3 million, must go to low income school libraries while the rest of the money will go to national not-for-profits that work on childhood literacy. This budget appropriates money for the Institutes of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) which includes **\$185 million** for LSTA funding. This is a 2.3 percent cut from the FY '11 amount of \$189 million. Under LSTA; Grants to States was appropriated at **\$156.6 million**, Native American Library Services was funded at **\$3.8 million**, National Leadership for Libraries was funded at **\$11.9 million**, and the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian was funded at **\$12.5 million** for FY '12.

William J. Boarman will step down from the position of Public Printer at the end of this session of Congress. The GPO was appropriated \$126,200,000 with \$35,000,000 of that amount for the Superintendent of Documents' Salaries and Expenses.

In the House, H.R. 3261, the "Stop Online Piracy Act" introduced by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) back in October is still in being marked up by the Judiciary Committee. Markup will continue once the House returns on January 17, 2012.

OITP staff participated in a policy roundtable on community colleges, minority students, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. This roundtable launched a new initiative by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. In addition, OITP staff met with staff of the Pew Research Centers' Internet and American Life Project. Pew initiated a new study focused on libraries, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The first phase emphasizes e-books, with a report expected in spring 2012.

Office for Government Relations (OGR)

Appropriations

On December 16 the U.S. House of Representatives and on December 17 the U.S. Senate approved a \$915 billion budget bill for FY 2012. This massive budget bill, that was passed by the House with a 296-121 vote and cleared the Senate with a 67-32 vote, will be the year-long spending for the Military Construction-VA, Defense, Energy-Water, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Interior-Environment, Labor-HHS-Education, Legislative Branch and State-Foreign Operations. A FY '12 budget bill had previously been passed for Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Transportation. This most recently passed FY'12 budget bill contains many library programs including money for school libraries and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and GPO.

After Congress zeroed out funding for Improving Literacy Through School Libraries for FY 2011, both the Senate and House recognized in FY '12 that they cut the primary source of federal funding to school libraries. In the new federal budget, Congress appropriated **\$28.6 million** for literacy. A minimum of half, or \$14.3 million, must go to low income school libraries while the rest of the money will go to national not-for-profits that work for childhood literacy (which could also include libraries).

This budget appropriates money for the Institutes of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) which includes **\$185 million** for LSTA funding. This is a 2.3 percent cut from the FY '11 amount of \$189 million. Under LSTA; Grants to States was appropriated at **\$156.6 million**, Native American Library Services was funded at **\$3.8 million**, National Leadership for Libraries was funded at **\$11.9 million**, and the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian was funded at **\$12.5 million** in FY '12.

President Obama signed the legislation December 23, 2011.

Government Printing Office (GPO) Update

President Obama appointed William J. Boarman Public Printer by recess appointment a year ago and on December 17th the Senate returned Mr. Boarman's nomination to the President. A day later on December 18th the [GPO released a statement](#) regarding the nomination. On Tuesday, December 20th [Mr. Boarman announced](#) that Davita Vance-Cooks who has been his Chief of Staff, will be the Deputy Public Printer. Mr. Boarman will step down from the position of Public Printer at the end of this session of Congress.

The GPO was appropriated \$126,200,000 with \$35,000,000 of that amount for the Superintendent of Documents' Salaries and Expenses. These monies will ensure that Congressional and other government information products will continue to be dispersed, primarily through Federal Depository Library Program.

Surveillance & Copyright-related activity

There has been much activity in recent weeks on so-called anti-piracy bills in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. In the House, H.R. 3261, the “Stop Online Piracy Act” (SOPA) introduced by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) back in October is still being marked up by the House Judiciary Committee. Markup will continue once the House returns on January 17, 2012. Debate of the proposed amendments by members of the committee has been impassioned.

The main privacy and surveillance issues addressed recently have been generated by the civil liberties problems caused by the potential impact of SOPA; which would go far beyond protecting copyright owners from infringement and create serious privacy and First Amendment problems. The ISPs would be monitoring monitor use and content on the Internet and the government would be permitted to take down entire web sites. Even if only a small portion of a web site had a copyright infringement, an entire site could be blocked, denying public access to legally protected information. There are many reasons to keep the library community working our grassroots resources to oppose this bill in Congress.

Meanwhile, the Senate’s PROTECT IP Act of 2011 (S. 968), or PIPA, bill is on the move, too. Introduced back in May of 2011 by Sen. Leahy (D-VT), cloture was filed on December 17 to proceed to a roll call vote on the bill scheduled for January 24, 2012 (the first day the Senate is back in session in the new year).

Additional information, including ALA’s letters sent to Congress in response these bills’ activity, are available at <http://ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/copyright/copyrightlegislation/index.cfm>.

Grassroots Activities

For ALA, the year-end has brought very active grassroots lobbying efforts on key issues. While the end of the year finds few bills actually completed by Congress, library supporters were asked repeatedly to contact Congress to fight for FY2013 library appropriations, including a push to get back some funding for school libraries – as well as school library recognition in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA.) Other alerts went out about fighting the SOPA bill, “Stop Online Privacy Act,” as well as pushing for network neutrality – the later bill passed coming out on “our side.”

The last three months have averaged out to about one major “action alert” per week. This is not counting the targeted grassroots projects with particular state affiliates and library supporters to focus messaging on important senators or representatives on key issues, such as ESEA and SOPA. Nor does it include the ongoing alerts on ALA’s Legislative Action Center (LAC) that are regularly used. Final 2011 numbers will be available by Midwinter 2012.

OGR completed a year’s series of advocacy webinars with the final 2011 topic on December 6th, on “Education, Advocacy and Lobbying – Oh My!: What’s Allowed (and What’s Not) When Reaching out to Elected Officials.” Over 175 people participated in the online (and now archived) webinar led by Ted Wegner, OGR Grassroots Coordinator, and “Advocacy Guru”, Stephanie Vance, who discussed both the letter and the spirit of the law when it comes to lobbying and advocacy. Participants also discussed

criteria to be used to assess specific situations. All the recent webinars have averaged between 150 to 200 participants; feedback has been positive so these series will continue in the new year.

ESEA

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee met on October 20, 2011 and passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) with a 15-7 vote. Joining all Democrats in voting in favor of the legislation were three Republicans, Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Mark Kirk (R-IL). Unfortunately, an amendment sponsored by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) that would support school libraries was withdrawn by Senator Whitehouse due to a lack of support from other members on the committee. Even though this amendment was withdrawn, Senator Whitehouse did state that he does wish to reintroduce this amendment on the Senate floor.

The next step in the legislative process is for the ESEA bill to be brought before the full Senate. It is unknown at this time when this will happen, but won't happen before the Senate comes back to Washington on January 23, 2012. The ALA Washington Office is working with Senator Reed, Whitehouse, and Murray's staff to get a school library amendment introduced when and if ESEA is brought before the Senate floor next year.

Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP)

The Future of Public Libraries Webinar

On October 27, OITP sponsored a panel discussion on the future of public libraries where panelists presented a range of possible responses as contrasting visions: physical vs. virtual library; individual vs. community focus; portal vs. archive service; collection vs. creative approach. This session featured Dr. Roger Levien, OITP Fellow and author of "Confronting the Future: Strategic Visions for the 21st Century Public Library." Maxine Bleiweis, Westport Public Library, and Marc Gartler, Madison Public Library provided perspectives from the field as well. 544 people attended this webinar.

For more visit: <http://wp.me/p1zex0-10Q>

Digitizing Hidden Collections Webinar

Some of the resources highlighted during the November 2 webinar include:

- Information and best practices from the [Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative](#)
- Peter Hirtle's guide to copyright, "Copyright and Cultural Institutions: Guidelines for U.S. Libraries, Archives, and Museums," which can be [downloaded for free](#).
- The [Perspectives paper](#) that sparked the webinar

166 people attended this webinar.

For more visit: <http://wp.me/p1zex0-1PK>

OITP appoints its first research associate

In November, OITP established the OITP Research Associates Program for early career professionals with a serious interest in national public policy. Ms. Jessie Mannisto will serve as the first OITP Research Associate with a term extending through August 2012. She was [OITP's Google Policy Fellow this past summer](#), and completed her master's degree at the University of Michigan's School of Information in

spring 2011. As a Research Associate, Jessie will continue her work on “contemplation” as described in her [guest blog](#). Her work on contemplation is expected to be published in the *OITP Perspectives* series within the next several months.

For more visit: <http://wp.me/p1zex0-1PY>

Robert L. Oakley Memorial Scholarship

In recognition of his life accomplishments and contributions, the [American Library Association](#) and the [Library Copyright Alliance](#) have established the Robert L. Oakley Memorial Scholarship to support research and advanced study for librarians in their early-to-mid-careers who are interested and/or active in the fields that Robert Oakley was expert in—intellectual property, public policy, copyright and their impacts on libraries and the ways libraries serve their communities.

For more visit: <http://wp.me/p1zex0-1OG>

WIPO meetings

Lori Driscoll, an OITP international copyright advocate, participated in the November 2011 WIPO meetings in Geneva, on behalf of the Library Copyright Alliance. For the first time, three extra days were scheduled at the beginning of this 23rd meeting of the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) to focus on limitations and exceptions specifically for libraries and archives. For the remainder of the two weeks of meetings, Member States discussed a proposal for an international instrument for limitations and exceptions for persons with print disabilities, agreed on a work plan toward a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations, and finalized plans for a diplomatic conference for the protection of audiovisual performances in Beijing, China in 2012.

For more visit: <http://wp.me/p1zex0-1SL>

OITP will host a Google Policy Fellow for the summer 2012

Once again, we are participating in the Google Policy Fellows program. For the summer of 2012, the selected fellow will spend 10 weeks in residence at the ALA Washington Office to learn about national policy and complete a major project. Google provides the stipend for the summer, but the work agenda is under the full control of ALA and the fellow. The Google Washington office provides an educational program for all of the fellows, including lunchtime talks.

For more visit: <http://wp.me/p1zex0-1SE>

Outreach

OITP staff participated in a policy roundtable on community colleges, minority students, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. This roundtable launched a new initiative by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. In addition, OITP staff met with staff of the Pew Research Centers’ Internet and American Life Project. Pew initiated a new study focused on libraries, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The first phase emphasizes e-books, with a report expected in spring 2012.

For more visit: <http://wp.me/p1zex0-1Tf>

FCC Chairman announces digital literacy and broadband adoption efforts

In October, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Julius Genachowski announced a new national effort to address broadband adoption, digital literacy, and the employment skills gap. Right now, about 100 million Americans don't have high-speed Internet at home, and lack of digital literacy skills is a contributing reason. As the ALA and librarians know, this disconnect impedes digital opportunity on many fronts as employment and government resources and services move online. The Institute of Museum and Library Services and staff in the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy are meeting and advocating with FCC staff to ensure libraries and librarians are engaged and supported in these national efforts. More information is [here](#), and OITP will share more information as soon as it's available.

Establishment of the Digital Content and Libraries Working Group

The ALA president appointed the members of the new Digital Content and Libraries Working Group in October. Sari Feldman, executive director of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, and Robert Wolven, associate university librarian at Columbia University, were named as the co-chairs. An ALA Connect site, e-mail list, and background materials were assembled and the group's first conference call occurred in November. Subgroups to address particular topics such as licensing, privacy, and education are being formed. The Working Group will be meeting at the Midwinter Conference to develop its strategy and plans for the months ahead.

Library Appropriations - FY 2012
(amounts in thousands)
Last updated December 16, 2011

	FY11 Final	FY 12 President	FY12 House Draft	FY12 Senate	FY12 Final
Labor-HHS-Education					
Institute of Museum and Library Services	237,393	242,605	Not Specified	237,393	231,953
Library Services and Technology Act	189,035	193,223	Not Specified	189,035	184,703
Grants to State Library Agencies	160,032	161,345	Not Specified	160,032	156,364
Native American Library Services	3,960	4,000	Not Specified	3,960	3,868
National Leadership	12,225	12,250	Not Specified	12,225	11,945
21st Century Library Professionals	12,817	15,628	Not Specified	12,818	12,524
Grants to Local Educational Agencies	14,442,926	14,492,401	15,463,417	14,463,417	14,516,457
Head Start	7,559,633	8,099,783	8,099,783	7,899,633	7,968,543
Even Start	0	**0	0	0	0
Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE)	40,900	63,000	0	70,900	65,775
Child Literacy Programs and Books	0	0	0	***30,000	***28,654
Improving Literacy Through School Libraries	0	**0	0	0	0
Reading Is Fundamental	0	**0	0	0	0
Striving Readers	0	**0	0	183,000	159,697
Adult Education & Literacy State Grants	596,120	635,000	Not Specified	596,120	594,993
Adult Education National Leadership	11,323	23,346	Not Specified	11,323	11,300
Carl D. Perkins State Grants	1,123,659	1,000,000	Not Specified	1,123,659	1,121,535
Educational Technology	0	**0	0	0	0
21st Century Community Learning Centers	1,153,854	1,266,000	1,153,854	1,153,854	1,151,673
Educational Assessment	138,567	143,800	Not Specified	138,567	138,305
Educational Research	199,796	260,400	Not Specified	199,796	189,786
Educational Statistics	108,304	117,021	Not Specified	109,304	108,748
Legislative Branch					
Government Printing Office	135,067	148,474	108,053	116,814	126,200
Congressional Printing and Binding	93,580	100,001	74,586	81,314	90,700
Superintendent of Documents	39,831	42,173	33,468	35,000	35,000
Library of Congress	628,676	666,731	575,322	579,171	587,300
National Library Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped	68,045	71,927	50,674	50,860	50,674
Financial Services					
Electronic Government Fund	7,984	34,000	---	---	12,400
Federal Citizens Services Fund	34,184	36,825	---	---	34,100
Information and Engagement for Citizens Fund	---	---	50,000	39,084	---
National Archives and Records Administration	339,090	403,742	360,969	378,845	386,500
National Historical Publications and Record Commission Program Grants	6,986	5,000	1,000	5,000	5,000
Interior					
National Endowment for the Arts	154,690	146,255	135,000	---	146,255
National Endowment for the Humanities	154,690	146,255	135,000	---	146,255

** Programs proposed for consolidation or elimination in the President's FY'12 budget request.

*** Minimum of half must be designated for school libraries.

