TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: Washington Office activity

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

For your review.

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

Washington Office

CONTACT PERSON: Jacob Roberts, 202-628-8410, jroberts@alawash.org

DATE: [Date sent to Executive Office]

BACKGROUND:

Washington Office activity

Attachments:

Washington Office activity
Copyright Legislation Victory
After an unprecedented swell of grassroots advocacy from Internet users on January 18, 2012, known as Internet Blackout Day, two Congressional bills – PIPA (S. 968) and SOPA (H.R. 3261) – were effectively stopped in their tracks. The day-long blocking of websites highlighted the outright denial of access to information the bills would have likely imposed, if passed. For two copyright-related bills that were supposed to combat “foreign” counterfeiting or copyright infringing, the one-day demonstration highlighted how they would likely affect Internet users here in the U.S.

The ALA went on record taking a strong stance in opposition to these bills and OGR constructed the PIPA, SOPA and OPEN Act Quick Reference Guide available at http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/ala_sopa_pipa_open1.pdf. In addition, OGR issued a legislation action alert to ALA members asking them to contact their representatives to express opposition to the bills shortly after they were introduced. Additional information is available at http://www.ala.org/advocacy/copyright/copyrightlegislation. ALA participated in the public relations campaign against PIPA and SOPA by adding an all-black highlight onto the home page.

Open Access Legislation
On February 9, 2012, identical bills were introduced with bipartisan support aimed at improving access to federally funded research. In the House, the Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA) (H.R. 4004), was introduced by Rep. Doyle (D-PA) and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. In the Senate, a bill by the same name (S. 2096) was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Cornyn (R-TX) and then referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs. The ALA has a history of strong support for this legislation – as it builds on the success of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy implemented in 2008. Additional information is available at http://www.ala.org/advocacy/access/accesstoinformation/publiclyfundedresearch/s1373.

In addition, FRPAA legislation is the antidote to the anti-open access Research Works Act (H.R. 3699), introduced in December 2011 by Rep. Issa (D-CA). In a somewhat unusual development on February 27, Elsevier (rumored backer of the bill) publically announced it was retracting support for the Research Works Act – essentially rendering the bill dead. Additional information is available at www.ala.org/advocacy/research-works-act. The ALA will continue to voice strong opposition to anti-open access legislation while continuing to enthusiastically support FRPAA legislation.
**Legislative Advocacy**

On Monday, February 27, OGR hosted a webinar titled, “The Legislative Process and You: How it Works and How to Make a Difference.” The session, led by “Advocacy Guru” Stephanie Vance, gave attendees a look at how a bill makes its way through Congress and how to influence legislation at each step of the way. Participants left the webinar with a checklist and a work plan on using the legislative process to make a positive difference for their libraries.

**National Library Legislative Day April 23-24, 2012**

The ALA’s Office of Government Relations staff and fellow colleagues and friends of libraries will host the 2012 National Library Legislative Day on April 23 and 24 in Washington, DC. Each year hundreds of library supporters travel to D.C. where they receive training and briefings to prepare for meetings with their members of Congress. For additional information and to register for this year’s event please visit www.ala.org/nlld.

**Library Appropriations**

On February 13, 2012, President Barack Obama sent his FY 2013 budget request to Congress, outlining his priorities for the upcoming fiscal year and starting the legislative work on drafting and passing a federal budget for 2013. In the President’s budget request, he asks for level funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at the FY 2012 level of $184.7 million.

However, the President’s request neglected to include funding for Innovative Approaches to Literacy. This is $28.6 million that Congress included in the FY 2012 Consolidated Appropriations Act under the Funding for the Improvement of Education (FIE) after Improving Literacy Through School Libraries had not been funded since FY 2010. Instead of including direct funds in his budget request for literacy and school libraries, the President opted to consolidate Improving Literacy Through School Libraries with five other Department of Education literacy programs for $187 million. This means school libraries will compete with other literacy programs for funding rather than have a direct appropriations line.

Once the President’s budget request was released, Congress began drafting the budget for FY 2013. Taking into account it is an election year, the time line is unclear. However, it is likely that Congress will mark-up (vote out of committee) appropriations bills sometime this summer. The current fiscal year expires at the end of September.

On March 20, 2012 two “Dear Colleague” letters were sent to the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. One of these letters, that was sponsored by Representatives Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and Rush Holt (D-NJ) and included 45 other signatures from Members of Congress asked for the committee to fund LSTA at $184.7 million in FY’ 2013. Likewise, another letter was sent to the House Appropriations Committee with 120 signatures and sponsored by Reps. James McGovern
(D-MA), Don Young (R-AK), Holt and Grijalva. This letter asked the committee to appropriate $28.6 million for Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL).

Just like in the House, there were also two letters asking for library funding that were sent to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee with bi-partisan support. The first letter, sent by Sens Jack Reed (D-RI) and Olympia Snow (R-ME) with 32 other signatures asked for $184.7 million for LSTA in FY 2013. The second letter that was sent by Sens. Reed, Snowe, Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Roger Wicker (R-MS), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and 35 other members asked the committee for $28.6 million for Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL).

After Congress zeroed out funding to 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. The U.S. Department of Education has named this program Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) and will be releasing grant application guidelines soon.

### Madison Award

On March 16th, ALA President Molly Raphael presented Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) with the James Madison Award. Lofgren received the award during the National Freedom of Information Day Conference held at the Knight Conference Center at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Recently Lofgren fought against the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), legislation that would require Internet service providers to police users’ activities in an attempt to combat online infringement overseas. Recognizing the potential harm that SOPA could have on First Amendment rights, intellectual freedom and privacy, Lofgren fought tirelessly to oppose the bill. Lofgren was recognized both for her commitment to sponsoring legislation that strengthens the public’s right to access information and her opposition to legislation that impedes First Amendment rights.

### Cybersecurity and Surveillance

During this 112th Congress, ALA has been closely monitoring numerous cybersecurity bills. Each time we anticipated some action on these bills, the proposals were delayed and no action taken. At this writing, sponsors of two Senate bills have announced that their bills would move after the spring recess in late April. The House announced that the week of April 23rd will be “cybersecurity week” when a package of bills will be voted on. In the Senate, the two bills of concern are the Cybersecurity Act of 2012, S. 2105, sponsored by Sens. Lieberman, Feinstein, Collins and Rockefeller. The other is the SECURE Act, S. 2151, sponsored by Sen. McCain. Two of the House bills being monitored are the PRECISE Act of 2011, H.R. 3674, sponsored by

For library users and the public in general, the information sharing proposals in these current cybersecurity bills permit extraordinary amounts of information to be obtained by law enforcement, especially in the bills that would designate the National Security Agency as the lead agency to receive such information. While ALA recognizes that some legislative changes may be needed to allow for appropriate protections from cybersecurity threats, far more changes to protect civil liberties are needed in any final legislation. ALA will promote amendments to assure that cybersecurity information is used for cybersecurity purposes and to push elimination of the extraordinary monitoring and countermeasures provisions. The need for such provisions has not been proven – and would, if passed, and have many grave problems, intended or not.

**Office of Information Technology Policy (OITP)**

**Digital Content and Libraries at the Midwinter Conference**

OITP provided substantive and logistical support to the Digital Content and Libraries Working Group at its business meeting, Council presentation, and Executive Board discussion at the 2012 Midwinter Conference. In addition, OITP organized a session on ebooks that featured Kansas State Librarian Jo Budler, which was well attended and well received.

**The Digital Literacy Task Force defines digital literacy**

After careful consideration the Task Force agreed that digital literacy is “the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information requiring both cognitive and technical skills.” This definition is also in a forthcoming primer that looks more deeply into the necessary skills, the need for digital literacy, the digital divide and the role of all types of libraries. For more, visit: [http://wp.me/p1zex0-204](http://wp.me/p1zex0-204)

**Digital Content and Libraries in New York**

OITP provided substantive and logistical support for the meetings in New York of the ALA delegation with five publishers—Penguin, Macmillan, Random House, Simon & Schuster, and Perseus. Background materials were prepared for the ALA delegation, which included the ALA President Molly Raphael, ALA President-elect Maureen Sullivan, Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels, co-chair of the Digital Content and Libraries Working Group Robert Wolven, and the OITP Director Alan Inouye.

**Digital Content and Libraries Working Group at the PLA Conference**

OITP staff provided support to the Digital Content and Libraries Working Group at the PLA Conference in March. Meetings with four ebook distributors—OverDrive, 3M, Ingram, and Baker & Taylor—were organized; Molly Raphael, Maureen Sullivan, Keith Michael Fiels, Working Group Co-chair Sari Feldman, and OITP Director Alan Inouye participated in these meetings. Additionally, Working Group members and/or staff met with representatives of the Association of American Publishers, Digital Public
Library of America initiative, Perseus, and Random House. Alan also served on a panel on e-books chaired by Gina Millsap.

Renee Hobbs named as OITP Fellow
OITP has named Dr. Renee Hobbs as its most recent OITP Fellow for a term through 2012. Dr. Hobbs is one of the nation’s leading authorities on media literacy education and is the author of Digital and Media Literacy: Connecting Culture and Classroom, Copyright Clarity: How Fair Use Supports Digital Learning, and Reading the Media: Media Literacy in High School English. Formerly a professor at Temple University’s School of Communication and Theater, Hobbs has developed award-winning multimedia resources to integrate digital and media literacy into the context of K-12 education and conducted research to examine the impact of media literacy on academic achievement. As a Fellow, Hobbs could become involved in any aspect of OITP’s work, but her primary focus will be on digital literacy. Hobbs will use her experiences in the larger context of digital and media literacy and her appreciation of the significant role libraries play in this sphere to enrich the ongoing work of the ALA Digital Literacy Task Force.

L. Ray Patterson Awardee Named
Winston Tabb, Dean of Libraries and Museums at Johns Hopkins University is the 2012 recipient of the American Library Association’s L. Ray Patterson Copyright Award: In Support of Users’ Rights. The award recognizes Mr. Tabb’s decades-long support for balanced copyright law, advancement of library and user copyright exceptions worldwide, and commitment to an international copyright law to support the information needs of people with print disabilities. The award will be presented formally at the 2012 Annual Conference.

Four Cutting-edge Programs Recognized
OITP and LITA selected programs at Contra Costa County Library in Pleasant Hill, Calif., New Canaan High School Library in New Canaan, Conn., New York Public Library in New York, and Scottsdale Public Library in Scottsdale, Ariz., as the winners of the association’s third annual contest to honor cutting-edge technologies in library services. In November 2011, a joint OITP and LITA selection committee serving under the OITP Program on America’s Libraries for the 21st Century (AL21C) issued its call for nominations for best library practices using cutting-edge technology to showcase libraries that are serving their communities with novel and innovative methods. The selection committee, chaired by Christine Lind Hage, received nearly double the number of submissions than in previous years, so competition was very strong from around the country and all types of libraries.

OITP participates in the Knight Foundation Libraries Conference
Two representatives from OITP—Marijke Visser and Larra Clark—presented at the Knight Foundation Libraries Conference in February. Entitled “Re-visioning the Library of the Future,” the conference brought together John S. and James L. Knight Foundation staff and library grantees from 27 communities around the country to discuss critical issues and opportunities for the profession. Visser discussed recent national digital literacy initiatives and the work of the ALA Taskforce on Digital Literacy as part of a
Washington Highlights panel. Clark discussed the recent policy brief *Confronting the Future: Strategic Visions for the 21st Century Library* as part of a panel on “Libraries and the Community.”

**OITP will host a Google Policy Fellow for the summer 2012**

Once again, OITP is 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, such as lunchtime talks. For more visit: http://www.districtdispatch.org/2011/12/ala-seeks-candidates-for-google-policy-fellowship/

**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 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://www.districtdispatch.org/2011/12/copyright-limitations-for-print-disabled-discussed-at-wipo/

**OITP outlines library “triple play” for digital literacy**

In March 2012, the Federal Communications Bar Association hosted a continuing education course on “Developments in the Effort to Improve Broadband Adoption” in Washington, DC. ALA OITP presented as part of the panel on “Understanding Current Adoption Efforts,” along with representatives from Comcast, CenturyLink and One Economy.

The audience responded well to the suggestion that libraries provide a great “triple play” in our communities: physical locations with technology infrastructure (including Internet accessible computers and wi-fi), assistance and training from information professionals, and robust and diverse electronic content. Aside from our own efforts, libraries are ideal partners for larger or national digital literacy and broadband awareness efforts – but this engagement should reflect real collaboration, rather than simply looking to libraries as a distribution point for promotional materials. One person in the audience, in fact, asked about “community champions” for adoption, and all of the panelists confirmed the importance of engaged and passionate stakeholders to achieve success. For more, visit: http://wp.me/p1zex0-1Yg

**OITP responds to FCC proposal to fund digital literacy training through public libraries**

OITP filed comments (pdf) with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) supporting its proposal to advance broadband adoption by low-income people through digital literacy training in our nation’s public libraries and schools. For more, visit: http://wp.me/p1zex0-20p
**OITP research fellow, Jessie Mannisto releases new report**

In a new report, *Restoring Contemplation: How Disconnecting Bolsters the Knowledge Economy*, author Jessie L. Mannisto outlines future directions for libraries and other social institutions to improve our capacity for thoughtful endeavor. These changes, the report argues, are essential for success in a globally competitive economy and a higher quality of life. For more, visit: [http://wp.me/p1zex0-1YI](http://wp.me/p1zex0-1YI)

**OITP offers alternative spring break**

Once again, OITP participated in the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program of the School of Information (SI) at the University of Michigan. Each year, dozens of SI students make their way to Washington, D.C. to spend a week at an organization focused on information-related fields. In addition to ALA, SI students are hosted by other advocacy groups such as EDUCAUSE as well as federal agencies such as the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Archives. The students get a taste of work life here in D.C. and an opportunity to network with information professionals. For more, visit: [http://wp.me/p1zex0-1Y0](http://wp.me/p1zex0-1Y0)

**The Digital Literacy Task Force defines digital literacy**

After careful consideration we agreed that digital literacy is “the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information requiring both cognitive and technical skills.” This definition is also in a forthcoming primer that looks more deeply into the necessary skills, the need for digital literacy, the digital divide and the role of all types of libraries. For more, visit: [http://wp.me/p1zex0-204](http://wp.me/p1zex0-204)

**Digital Content and Libraries Working Group at the PLA Conference**

OITP staff provided support to the Digital Content and Libraries Working Group at the PLA Conference in March. Meetings with four ebook distributors—OverDrive, 3M, Ingram, and Baker & Taylor—were organized; Molly Raphael, Maureen Sullivan, Keith Fiels, Working Group Co-chair Sari Feldman, and OITP Director Alan Inouye participated in these meetings. Additionally, Working Group members and/or staff met with representatives of the Association of American Publishers, Digital Public Library of America initiative, Perseus, and Random House. Alan also served on a panel on e-books chaired by Gina Millsap.