

**TO:** ALA Executive Board

**RE:** *Report on Washington Office Activities*

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:**  
*For information purposes. No actions requested.*

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:**  
*No action requested.*

**CONTACT PERSON:**  
*Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director, ALA Washington Office  
202-628-8410, esheketoff@alawash.org*

**DRAFT OF MOTION:**  
*None.*

**DATE:** *June 7, 2013*

**BACKGROUND:** The report provides information on recent ALA Washington Office initiatives and projects.

Attachments: Executive Board Report on Washington Office Activities

## **OFFICE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY (OITP)**

### **How Libraries are Evolving in the New Digital Realm**

In May, *American Libraries* and OITP released the digital supplement *Digital Content: What's Next?* The future-focused digital supplement examines how libraries are evolving in response to the digital revolution, including exploiting opportunities in self-publishing, while confronting challenges in licensing constraints. The digital supplement also details progress made by the ALA's Digital Content Working Group to advocate for equitable access to ebooks produced by the world's largest book publishers.

The supplement *Digital Content: What's Next?* is the third supplement to *American Libraries* magazine on ebooks and digital content. For more information about the ALA's efforts on digital content and libraries, visit the American Libraries E-content blog. Read the full report: <http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/7d9e3366>.

### **ALA Supports WIPO Treaty**

The American Library Association supports the Treaty for the Blind, a treaty that would allow international book lending to print-disabled people—including those who are blind, have low vision, are dyslexic, have a learning disability or other disability that prevents them from accessing print—by promoting an exception to copyright law. The exception would ask WIPO member nations to establish a national exception that authorizes the making of accessible copies. This copyright exception would be similar to the Chafee Amendment in U.S. copyright law. In addition, the exception would allow countries to share accessible copies (Braille, large print, digital formats like accessible e-books) across borders. Negotiations are reaching a fever pitch with many powerful corporations, including General Electric, Exxon, and the motion picture and publishing industries opposing the treaty.

### **ALA welcomes White House call for increased E-rate funding for libraries and schools**

Maureen Sullivan released a statement regarding President Obama's announcement of the ConnectED initiative. The initiative aims to connect America's students to high-capacity broadband and high-speed wireless. "ALA is encouraged by President Obama's announcement of the [ConnectED initiative](#) to ensure that libraries and schools have access to robust, affordable high-capacity broadband for many years to come," said Sullivan. "School and public libraries provide rich opportunities for students to actively engage and collaborate with peers and mentors using increasingly varied technology tools."

### **Report Highlights Library and Community Impacts from Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

In May, OITP released "U.S. Public Libraries and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program," a new report that details U.S. library engagement with the federal program. The report is the first to highlight state and local library BTOP projects nationwide and the improvements they have made to public access technology resources, digital literacy, and workforce development. Library projects in 29 states and the District of Columbia are featured in the report. ALA estimates about 20 percent of U.S. public libraries have benefited from BTOP funding. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration awarded just over \$4

billion to 233 BTOP projects. The NTIA established BTOP to increase broadband access and adoption nationwide, and U.S. state and public libraries have been critical partners in this effort.

### **OITP Speaks at Digital Inclusion Conference**

In April, Alan Inouye presented at the Digital Inclusion in Texas Conference and Colloquium at the University of Texas at Austin. The event was a synthesis of practice, research, and public policy centered around projects funded by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, public computer centers, broadband deployment, and related topics. Inouye was a panelist at the session “The Future of Public Internet Access,” which was moderated by Kenneth Flamm (University of Texas at Austin). Fellow panelists included Jay Schwarz (Federal Communications Commission) and Laura Breedon (National Telecommunications and Information Administration). Alan also moderated a panel on research and data.

### **Pew Study Defines Parental Relationships with Libraries**

A new Pew study released in May shows that the majority of parents highly value one resource for their children: libraries. Ninety-four percent say libraries are important for their children, according to new report by the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project. The study, “Parents’ and Children’s Special Relationship with Reading and Libraries,” reveals the strong connections parents have with public libraries. In response to the report, President Maureen Sullivan released a statement. OITP Advisory Committee member Bobbi Newman (and Council member) and OITP staffer Larra Clark serve on Pew’s advisory committee for library-related studies.

### **OITP Talks Ebooks with Publishers**

On April 9, 2013, Maureen Sullivan led an ALA delegation to New York to meet with publishers and others in the publishing ecosystem; the delegation includes Barbara Stripling (ALA President-elect), DCWG Co-chair Robert Wolven, Alan S. Inouye, Keith Michael Fiels (ALA Executive Director), and Marijke Visser (ALA staff). In May, Maureen, Keith Michael Fiels, and Alan participated in sessions and meetings at Book Expo America in New York. Maureen served on a panel on ebooks, authors, and library lending.

### **OITP Staff Present at Independent Book Publishers Association Conference**

OITP staff attended the Independent Book Publishers Association Conference to serve on a panel on e-books. The conference session, titled “The 21st Century Library: How Publishers Can Reach Patrons,” focused on the ways that libraries (and publishers) are undergoing a revolution as technology affects what patrons want and how they want it. The panel was moderated by Roy Carlisle of The Independent Institute, and other panelists included Monique Sendze, associate director of Information Technology at Douglas County Libraries; and Andrew Medlar, assistant commissioner for Collections for Chicago Public Library.

### **Bestselling Author to Host Copyright Workshop Tailored to School Librarians**

To help school librarians and educators better understand copyright law, author Carrie Russell hosted the workshop “Copyright for K-12 Librarians and Educators” on April 11, 2013. Russell is also the director of the American Library Association’s Program on Public Access to Information. In the

workshop, Russell discussed her newly released book *Copyright for K-12 Librarians and Educators* and offer guidance on ways to legally provide materials to students by exploring common scenarios encountered by school educators and librarians.

### **Commissioner Rosenworcel Digs Into E-rate 2.0**

In April, Federal Communications Commission Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel called for a thorough review of the E-rate program to ensure the program meets the future connectivity needs of libraries and schools. The Commissioner boldly outlined her vision for E-rate 2.0, building on earlier statements from Senate Commerce Committee Chair Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) during a recent FCC oversight hearing. The Commissioner identified five points as part of her E-rate 2.0 plan. ALA was pleased to hear that infusing more funding into the program was her number one point. She suggested the Commission do some of its own “housekeeping” in other Universal Service programs that could yield savings that could be invested in the E-rate program. ALA exerted influence through in-person meetings, emails, and phone calls, which included a direct call between Commissioner Rosenworcel and OITP staffer Marijke Visser.

### **Jamie Schleser Selected for 2013 ALA Google Policy Fellowship**

Jamie Aurelia Schleser, a doctoral student from American University, serves as the American Library Association’s 2013 Google Policy Fellow. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Schleser began her ten weeks in Washington, D.C. working with OITP on technology and Internet policy issues. As a Google Policy Fellow, Schleser works in diverse areas of information policy that include digital copyright, e-book licenses and access, telecommunications policy, digital literacy, online privacy, and the future of libraries. Her dissertation examines how networked memory institutions—including the Internet Archive, the World Digital Library and the Digital Public Library of America—are using the Internet to inform cultural production and communication in broad strokes.

### **ALA Leaders Contribute to Maine Policy Review**

Several ALA leaders contributed to a recent issue of the *Maine Policy Review*. The special issue, titled “Libraries and Information,” focused on the current state and future directions of librarianship and the knowledge society. In one article, Linda Lord, chair of the E-rate Task Force, describes the role of the Maine State Library and how it differs from other libraries. Tom Allen, president of the Association of American Publishers, talks about the challenges of library e-book lending from the publisher perspective. President Maureen Sullivan offers a bit more optimistic view in her article “Libraries and Book Publishers.”

OITP assistant director Marijke Visser discusses library roles in digital literacy in her article “Digital Literacy and Public Policy through the Library Lens.” She distills discussions from our Digital Literacy Task Force that recently completed its work. Libraries—of all types—have an important place in the information ecosystem to advance digital literacy, from the most rudimentary training to more advanced concepts such as relevancy, credibility, copyright, and privacy. Read the full article: <http://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mpr/vol22/iss1/>.

### **ALA Staff Moderate School, Health and Libraries Broadband Conference**

ALA and libraries were well-represented at the School, Health and Libraries Broadband (SHLB)

conference, with OITP Assistant Director Marijke Visser and OITP Fellow Bob Bocher leading a session on policy implications of the E-rate funding shortage; Denise Hendlmyer from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission speaking on a broadband adoption plenary panel; Jamie Hollier with PLA's DigitalLearn.org; Corinne Hill, executive director for the Chattanooga Public Library, on the "What To Do with a Gig" panel.

### **LCA Comments on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

The [Library Copyright Alliance](#) has released these [comments](#) regarding United States negotiating stance on the [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#) questioning whether the United States should negotiate an intellectual property section in the trade agreement given the differences between EU and US copyright laws.

### **OITP Provides Insights on E-book Market for YALSA Publication**

Marijke Visser, associate director for the ALA Program on Networks, contributed to a recent issue of *Young Adult Library Services*, a YALSA publication. The article, titled "E-Books? So What's the Big Deal?" described some of the challenges libraries are facing as they embark on the unknown world of e-books.

## **OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS (OGR)**

### **ALA calls for accountability and transparency in nation's surveillance laws**

ALA was gravely concerned, but unfortunately not surprised, at the June revelation that the U.S. government obtained the phone records of all Verizon (and maybe other telephone companies) and Internet companies' customers for the last seven years. ALA called upon Congress to provide more accountability and transparency about how the government is obtaining and using vast amounts of information about innocent people.

"The library community welcomes a renewed public debate on how to balance the need to fight terrorism and the need to protect personal privacy and civil liberties," said ALA President Maureen Sullivan.

ALA's response follows media reports that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) has every three months, for seven years, been renewing a Section 215 order to obtain phone records of all Verizon customers. The FISC is a secret court authorized to issue such orders under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA.) In a public hearing, Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) indicated that the order identified in news reports is just a "regular" renewal of an order that started seven years ago.

### **Journalists Threatened by Secret DOJ Subpoena**

In addition to following congressional and executive branch activities on the Electronic Communications Privacy Act and other cybersecurity-related proposals, OGR staff have been closely watching the "AP-DOJ surveillance" situation. The recent chilling revelation that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) obtained two-months of phone records of *Associated Press* reporters and editors is most disturbing and proves the arguments that ALA and others have made over the years about the risks of the government secretly collecting wholesale amounts of data and with no due process for any

appeals. Using a secret subpoena process, DOJ was able to obtain basic information about phone calls from over 20 different phone lines used by many AP staff, but apparently not the content of these phone calls. ALA is a member of [OPENTHEGOVERNMENT.ORG](http://OPENTHEGOVERNMENT.ORG), which released a statement. Normally, DOJ follows its own strict guidelines outlining how to obtain such records from news organizations, which usually includes an advance notice to news organizations and reporters. This protocol was apparently not followed. OGR staff is closely following this situation – which is unfolding rapidly, at this writing.

### **Maureen Sullivan, Library Advocates Tell Legislators to Protect Library Funding**

Hundreds of librarians and library supporters—375 to be exact.....from across the country representing 48 of the 50 states--- traveled to Washington, D.C. on May 7–8, 2013, to meet with members of Congress to discuss key library issues during the American Library Association’s 39<sup>th</sup> annual National Library Legislative Day. The event focused on supporting federal funding for national libraries. Advocates discussed the need to fund the Library Services and Technology Act, support legislation that gives people who use libraries access to federally-funded scholarly journal articles and continue funding that provides school libraries with needed funds for materials. Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) was presented with United for Libraries’ Public Service Award. Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL) and Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) were among the other legislators who attended ALA’s congressional reception. Those who could not attend NLLD in person were able to contact Congress as part of Virtual Library Legislative Day. Over 1400 calls and emails were directed toward Capitol Hill as part of this effort.

### **Library Leaders Head to the White House during Legislative Day**

As part of the week-long activities for National Library Legislative Day, the IMLS arranged a meeting to bring together library leaders with President Barack Obama’s Domestic Policy Council staff. As part of the meeting, the group discussed where library priorities meshed with the President’s agenda. The Domestic Policy Council staff left very enthusiastic, and both IMLS and ALA leadership were pleased by the eagerness of the meeting. Meeting attendees included Maureen Sullivan, ALA President; Carolyn Brodie, president, Association for Library Service to Children; Mary Wells, domestic policy assistant for the Obama Administration, Susan Hildreth, IMLS director; Jack Martin, president, Young Adult Library Services Association, Steve Robinson, staff member, Domestic Policy Council, Eva Poole, president, Public Library Association; and Mandy Cohen, staff member, Department of Health and Human Services.

### **ESEA Reauthorization Bill Introduced in U.S. Senate**

The Strengthening America’s Schools Act, a bill that would reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), was introduced in the United States Senate. S 1094 is a huge victory for libraries as it creates a specific provision for school libraries and implements the Improving Literacy and College and Career Readiness through Effective School Library Program. The bill is the first to recognize the role school library programs play in student learning since the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was first enacted in 1965.

### **OGR Hosts Free Webinar for Public Librarians on E-Government Website**

To assist libraries in providing e-government services to patrons, OGR hosted several free webinars to

teach librarians how to use [www.libegov.org](http://www.libegov.org), an easy-to-use web tool that helps libraries serve the e-government needs of their communities. Webinars were held on April 12, 2013 and May 30, 2013. The web tool will officially launch at the 2013 Annual ALA Conference.

## **Copyright Update**

The ALA Washington Office is reconfiguring its copyright team in order to effectively respond to the many legislative and policy challenges expected in the coming months, including a call by Rep. Bob Goodlatte to proceed with a comprehensive review of copyright law in the coming months. After the departure of Corey Williams, her duties are being redistributed among a reconfigured copyright team that will include Carrie Russell, ALA's long-time copyright specialist and Director of OITP's Program for Access to Information, Jessica McGilvray, OGR Assistant Director, and Ted Wegner, OGR Grassroots Coordinator. They will share additional responsibilities in the copyright arena and Lynne Bradley, OGR Director, will back up all three due to her overall expertise. ALA will continue to retain attorney Jonathan Band for expert legal advice while the team will share ALA's work in the Library Copyright Alliance and other coalitions. Every effort will be made to continue to participate in speaking opportunities and conferences while work with coalitions and other organizations will continue as the team continues to keep ALA "at the table" making library copyright concerns known to other stakeholders.

## **Senator Jack Reed Introduces Workforce Investments through Local Libraries Act**

In May, Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) introduced legislation to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 that will integrate public libraries into state and local workforce investment boards. Senator Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) co-sponsored the bill. The bill, the Workforce Investments through Local Libraries (WILL) Act, would expand libraries' opportunities to take leading roles in helping the public find employment in this weak economy. The WILL Act would support library efforts that provide job search support in communities all across America.

Additionally, the bill recognizes public libraries as allowable "One-Stop" partners and authorizes new demonstration and pilot projects to establish employment resources in public libraries. This will allow library users access to workforce activities and information related to training services and employment opportunities, including but not limited to resume development, job bank web searches, literacy services, and workshops on career information.

## **Appropriations (LSTA) Letter Makes Rounds in House and Senate**

In April 2013, 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) included 56 other signatures from Members of Congress asking for the committee to fund LSTA at \$184.7 million in FY' 2014. Likewise, another letter was sent to the Appropriations Committee with 103 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).

As 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

Susan Collins (R-ME) with 34 other signatures asked for \$184.7 million for LSTA in FY 2014. The second letter that was sent by Sens. Reed and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and 24 other members asked the committee for \$28.6 million for Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL).

### **ALA Offices Team Up for Immigration Webinar**

In May, REFORMA, the ALA Washington Office, the ALA Office for Diversity and the ALA Office for Advocacy discussed immigration issues during the free the webinar “Taking Action: Legal Barriers to Library Services to Immigrants & Access to Information.” As part of the webinar, participants heard recommendations from REFORMA members who supported immigrants despite difficult situations. REFORMA members shared resources that help librarians advocate for services for immigrants and multi-ethnic populations. Emily Sheketoff, executive director of the ALA Washington Office, participated in the webinar.