

## Key Issues for Libraries

### National Library Legislative Day May 2013

#### **Appropriations:**

ALA asks Congress to

- Fund the *Library Services and Technology Act* (LSTA) at \$184.7 million for FY 2014;
- Fund *Innovative Approaches to Literacy* (IAL) program at \$28.6 million for FY 2014;
- Fund the Library of Congress at \$608.7 million;
- Fund the Government Printing Office (GPO) at \$128.4 million.
- Collectively, these federal funds enable libraries to provide needed services to the American public; for example: seed money for initiatives that promote the sharing of limited resources across a region or state, support for school and public libraries in community literacy programs, and maintaining service to the blind and physically handicapped through the Library of Congress;
- In every state, the public benefits because federal library funding leverages new and efficient ways for libraries to serve the public and gives impetus for the development of new resources, services and collaborative projects that any one individual library could not initiate or sustain.

#### **Access to federal research:**

- ALA asks Members of Congress to co-sponsor the *Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2013* (FASTR) (S. 350/H.R. 708) to demonstrate support for open access to taxpayer-funded research.

#### **LEARN Act:**

- ALA asks Congress to ensure that library programs and activities are adequately included as part of an overall strategy to improve literacy in S. 758, the *LEARN Act*;
- S. 758 is intended to improve student academic achievement in reading and writing by providing federal support to state education agencies to develop, coordinate, and implement comprehensive literacy plans that ensure high-quality instruction and effective strategies in reading and writing from pre-K to grade 12.

### **School library programs:**

- ALA asks Congress to include effective school library programs in reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*;
- Students perform better in schools that have a quality school library with a state-certified school librarian.

### **Workforce Investment Act:**

- The ALA asks the Senate to include libraries as part of the *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)* reauthorization;
- Libraries serve a major role in helping citizens find jobs by offering a variety of resources to assist job seekers.

## **Additional Issues**

### **Broadband and the E-rate:**

- ALA thanks Congress for its continued support of the E-rate program and seeks support for reforms that will bring the fund in alignment with the growing application demand;
- Without the E-rate, libraries could not meet the public need for access to Internet and digital information, from email to video streaming for training.

### **Copyright**

- ALA agrees with the 6-3 majority decision in the recent *Kirtsaeng v. Wiley* case heard by the Supreme Court. The decision holds that the “first sale” doctrine applies to goods (including books) no matter where they are manufactured. ALA asks Congress to leave the Supreme Court decision untouched in any future reform of the Copyright Act

### **E-books**

- ALA asks for basic fairness so that all publishers will provide e-books for public access thru libraries. As ALA works with publishers, authors and library vendors, new business models are developing, some that could include a mix of perpetual access to e-books as well as limited term options. Libraries are considering and implementing business models that include e-book marketing and e-book sales to library users. But any option must be consistent with the mission and values of libraries.

### **Surveillance & privacy**

- ALA asks Congress to support privacy and First Amendment principles as the House and Senate address various legislative proposals related to cybersecurity, data collection/retention and surveillance proposals.
- Library supporters seek to improve the balance between our civil liberties and the need of law enforcement to protect our country: Wholesale collection of personal information and surveillance of thousands of people without specific suspicion, threatens our liberties;
- Concerns with civil liberties, is based on the long standing principles within the library community, to protect patron privacy and First Amendment rights.