



## KEY LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES IN THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS

**APPROPRIATIONS** – Support full funding of \$186.6 million for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) in the FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill and maintain level funding of \$25 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program. *LSTA helps target library services to people of many geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to disabled individuals, and to people with limited literacy skills. Half of all IAL funds provide school library materials to low-income communities.*

**SCHOOL LIBRARIES** – Reauthorize and revise the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to require that every student have access to an “effective school library program,” *defined in statute to require that: every school library be staffed by a certified librarian; equipped with up-to-date materials and technology; and enriched by a curriculum jointly developed by a grantee school’s librarians and classroom teachers. ALA also strongly supports permitting state program funds to be used to recruit and train school librarians.*

**PRIVACY & SURVEILLANCE** – Restore the Constitutional privacy rights of library users and all Americans lost to overbroad, invasive and insufficiently “checked and balanced” provisions of the: USA PATRIOT, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Amendments (FISA), and Electronic Communications Privacy Acts (ECPA). *Librarians have long defended patrons against government attempts to obtain patrons’ borrowing and internet use records without a warrant believing that liberty need and must not be sacrificed to security. Building on the USA FREEDOM Act, ALA strongly supports immediate passage of the ECPA Amendments Act of 2015 and rapid reform of Sec. 702 of FISA.*

**GOVERNMENT INFORMATION** – Pass “FASTR,” the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research (S. 779/H.R. 1477), the FOIA Improvement Act (S. 337) and statutorily ensure public access to unique collections held by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). *ALA is strongly committed to: no-fee access to all government-funded information and to robust support for all federal libraries and archives; maximum public access to information, government transparency and accountability; and funding for a single repository for the unique scientific and technical collections now held by the NTIS sufficient to permit this vital data to continue to be fully preserved and made universally available to the public on a cost-recovery basis.*

**COPYRIGHT** – Ratify the Marrakesh Treaty for the print disabled and reject unneeded changes to copyright law in any associated “implementing” legislation. *The Treaty will afford 4 million print disabled Americans critical new access to copyrighted material worldwide vital to their education, work and quality of life. U.S. negotiators assured that the final text was fully consistent with our law. The Treaty thus can and should be ratified promptly unencumbered by legislation to substantively amend United States copyright law that will delay or derail its ratification. ALA also is committed to equally respecting the rights of authors and to assuring that overly restrictive copyright laws do not thwart the Framers’ intent that copyright is meant “To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts....”*

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS** – Support “network neutrality.” *Preserving an open Internet is essential to freedom of speech, educational achievement, and our nation’s economic growth. Internet service providers should not be information gatekeepers. ALA urges all Members of Congress to oppose any legislation that fails to protect open Internet principles, or to assure equitable access to online information, applications and services for all.*



## COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION: KEY FACTS ABOUT 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LIBRARIES

- Number of public libraries and branches in the United States in 2012? ..... **17,219**  
Of franchised McDonalds? ..... **12,546**
- Percentage of Americans who said in 2013 that closure of their public library would have a “major impact” on their community? ..... **63%** Who said “no impact?” ..... **7%**
- Percentage of Americans (aged 16 and older) who said in 2013 that the information available at public libraries plays an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed? ..... **95%**  
Who said that having a public library improves the quality of life in a community? ..... **94%**
- Percentage of American parents who believe that libraries are important for their children? ..... **94%**
- Percentage of US public libraries offering services for job seekers in 2013? ..... **96%**
- Number of times American students visited a K–12 school library in 2011? ..... **1.3 billion**
- Number of movie tickets sold here in the same year? ..... **1.3 billion**
- Percentage in 2013 of K–12 teachers who said information online overwhelms most students ... **83%**
- Percentage of K–12 school librarians who answered teacher questions about how to use educational technology tools in 2011 ..... **85%**
- Percentage of American households without high speed internet access in 2012? ..... **28%**
- Percentage of U.S. public libraries with free wireless internet access in 2011? .... **89%** In 2014?...**98%**
- National internet connection speed goal for libraries? .... **1 Gigabit (1,000 Mb) per second**
- Percentage of public libraries with a “1 Gig” connection in 2013? ..... **2%**  
With a connection speed of 1% (10Mbps) or less of that goal? .... **50%**
- Reference questions answered per week in 2011 by US public and academic librarians? ... **6.6 million**
- Miles a single-file line of 6.6 million people would stretch? ..... **3,855 (Ocean City, MD to Juneau, AK)**
- Unique requests for information services fulfilled by academic librarians in 2010 ..... **28.9 million**
- Cents of each dollar spent on higher education received by academic libraries in 2011? ..... **3**
- Dollars spent annually in the U.S. on school library materials? .... **\$1 billion**  
On home video games? .... **\$18.6 billion**
- Estimated number of public libraries offering 3D printer access in 2009? ..... **0** In 2013? ..... **250**