2017 National Library Legislative Day Priority

Expedite Modernization of the Copyright Office and Ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty

The American Library Association urges members of Congress to:

1) **PRIORITIZE** efforts to modernize the Copyright Office and provide the funds needed to accomplish such long overdue reform, but **OPPOSE** any proposal either to relocate the Copyright Office within the federal government or to designate it an independent agency, including the Copyright Office for the Digital Economy Act (H.R. 890).

2) **OPPOSE** the Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act of 2017 (H.R. 1695), legislation retroactively designating the Register of Copyrights a presidentially appointed position, because of its high potential to delay and disrupt modernization of the Copyright Office and the dangers of politicizing the Register’s position.

3) **SUPPORT** rapid approval by both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees of consensus legislation (and related report language) now backed by all stakeholders to implement the US-backed Marrakesh Treaty for the print-disabled, concurrent consideration and approval of the Treaty by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the fastest possible Senate ratification of the Treaty thereafter.

What is the “Marrakesh Treaty” and why is its rapid ratification important?

- This landmark 2013 accord will make critical educational and other print materials in accessible digital formats available to 4 million people in the U.S. who are blind or have other print disabilities. ALA and many others do not believe that legislation to implement the Treaty is necessary. However, to avoid further delay in its adoption (which has been more than a decade in the making) we and other major stakeholders agreed to jointly back statutory and legislative history language now before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. We strongly oppose any changes to that consensus language and urge its immediate adoption so that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee may consider the Treaty itself and recommend its ratification by the full Senate.

What other current copyright-related bills do libraries back and why?

- H.R.905, the bipartisan *You Own Devices Act* by Reps. Blake Farenthold and Jared Polis, would remove the threat of consumer or business liability for reselling, donating or giving away any legally acquired physical items (everything from toasters to cell phones to tractors) that contain embedded software integral to their use and function.