**EBD #12.32**

**2017 - 2018**

**TO:** ALA Executive Board

**RE:** Washington Office Report

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:**

No action requested

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**DATE:** March 29, 2018

**BACKGROUND:**

Report of activities of ALA’s Washington Office

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Washington Office Report

**ALA WASHINGTON OFFICE REPORT**

WASHINGTON OFFICE NEWS

**ALA Policy Corps begins training**

At the ALA Midwinter Meeting the ALA Policy Corps met for the first time to begin their training as the first cohort. ALA President Jim Neal led the discussion of the purpose and goals for the Policy Corps. In early March, the Policy Corps completed two days of intensive training in Washington, D.C. The focus of this workshop included behind-the-scenes looks of policymaking on net neutrality, E-rate and federal funding for libraries, as well as meeting with ALA’s key partners in Washington, attending the James Madison Award ceremony at the Newseum and discussing public access to government information. Even though Corps members are in training, some of them have already made their mark in policy advocacy; for example, one Corps member had her [letter to the editor](https://www.peninsuladailynews.com/letters/letter-thanks-murray-kilmer-for-library-funding-support/) about federal funding for libraries published in her local newspaper. The Policy Corps looks forward to an April webinar and more D.C. engagement at [National Library Legislative Day](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/nlld).

**Registration continues for** [**National Library Legislative Day 2018**](http://ala.org/nlld)

Registration and planning for National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) 2018 is well underway. As of mid-March, over 350 attendees had already registered for the event and representatives from every state have confirmed their attendance. This year, the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) will provide advocacy training on May 7. In March CMF led a webinar (“The Pre-Fly In Checklist”) to help prepare NLLD registrants for their time in Washington, D.C. and give them a sense of what to expect. In early April the Washington Office will hold another webinar led by new staff Megan Ortegon and Daniel Snedden, who will use their experiences working on Capitol Hill to share tips and best practices with attendees. The Washington Office has focused on increasing participation in Virtual Library Legislative Day (VLLD), the digital component of NLLD, through the efforts of Washington Office intern Katherine Dean, who has done targeted outreach to public, school, academic and tribal libraries across the country, as well as students currently participating in MLS programs to ensure that all libraries are being represented in advocacy throughout the week.

**Ready to Code libraries make progress at Midwinter**

During ALA’s Midwinter conference, the libraries that received funding in the latest phase of ALA’s Ready to Code initiative participated in a design workshop to further develop the toolkit and associated materials that will be made broadly available to any library in the fall of 2018. A beta version will be released at Annual and the project team is working with ALA’s youth divisions to solicit feedback and input on a rollout process. In addition to the workshop, Ready to Code libraries participated in two other public programs as panelists and in a workshop by the National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT). The workshop is a continuation of the ALA-NCWIT partnership and focused on addressing implicit bias and increasing diversity in coding and CS programs for youth. NCWIT created a curated collection of resources for libraries that was made available to workshop participants and will be widely available on the NCWIT website. The NCWIT Aspirations program continues to build out its library engagement and actively recruited library partners for its spring and summer [AspireIT](https://www.ncwit.org/project/aspireit-k-12-outreach-program) program. Libraries in Alaska, Maine, Georgia, Florida and Idaho will have programs in this round.

**ALA’s Committee on Legislation adopts two resolutions at Midwinter**

At the 2018 Midwinter conference, the ALA Committee on Legislation endorsed two resolutions which were submitted and subsequently approved by the ALA Council. The first resolution, which commemorates the 20th anniversary of the federal E-rate program, was endorsed jointly with ALA’s E-rate Task Force. A second resolution, recommended by the COL’s Government Information Subcommittee and GODORT's Legislation Committee, was issued in honor of Davita Vance-Cooks, the 27th Public Printer of the United States and Director of the Government Publishing Office.

**WO program director advocates for open access on Colorado State University panel**

Carrie Russell, Director of ALA’s Program on Public Access to Information, served as a panelist on a webinar for the Colorado State University’s staff development session, “SciHub, Open Access pirates, and you: Librarians on the high seas,” on February 14. Russell explained that, in addition to working with organizations like the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and Electronic Information for Libraries, supporting and promoting open access will provide the insight and perspective needed to support global information equity.

**WO presents 2018 Madison and Cooke Awards**

On March 9, ALA [announced](http://www.districtdispatch.org/2018/03/2018-madison-cooke-awardees/) U.S. Representatives Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Mike Quigley (D-IL) as recipients of the 2018 James Madison Award in a Sunshine Week preview event at the Newseum’s Knight TV Studio in Washington, D.C., which included video remarks by both awardees. ALA President Jim Neal also presented the Eileen Cooke Award to Florida’s First Amendment Foundation, an honor that garnered mention in an [editorial](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/os-ed-sunshine-week-protect-florida-constitution-20180314-story.html) by the Orlando Sentinel in praise of open government. Both the Madison and Cooke Awards honor individuals or organizations who have championed, protected and promoted public access to government information and the public’s right to know how it functions. In response to feedback regarding the 2018 James Madison Award, ALA issued an [update](http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/this-update.pdf) to document the source and original intent of the Madison Award and to clarify the steps making future awards.

**WO welcomes cohort of students for Spring break**

In March, a new cohort of three University of Michigan students joined the WO for a week-long [internship](http://www.districtdispatch.org/2018/02/alternative-spring-break-students/) in D.C. as part of the University’s School of Information “Alternative Spring Break” program. For several years the WO has participated in the program, which provides an opportunity for students to engage in a service-oriented integrative learning experience; connects public sector organizations to the knowledge and abilities of students; and facilitates relationships between the School and the greater library community. The internship included tours and visits to important libraries, including at the Department of Commerce Research, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and several local universities. In addition to research projects, the interns’ field visits made significant contributions to the WO’s photo library.

WASHINGTON OFFICE ADVOCACY OUTREACH

**WO prepares to celebrate National Library Week on Capitol Hill**

For the 2018 National Library Week, the WO has planned events to showcase the role of libraries in providing internet connectivity and advancing the new workforce through innovation and entrepreneurship, and in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. ALA President Jim Neal will host the events.

On Wednesday, April 11, the WO and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM-3) will co-host an event to highlight how libraries are advancing the maker economy by providing public access to technologies that are revolutionizing the manufacturing industry and fostering entrepreneurship. Held in the Longworth House Office Building, “**Digital Fab! Libraries Advance Entrepreneurship and Innovation**” will feature librarians from the D.C. Public Library’s Fabrication Lab, who will give demonstrations of 3-D printers and other tools for all ages in emerging computer-enabled technologies.

On Thursday, April 12, the WO will co-host a panel with Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) focusing on internet connectivity in tribal libraries and rural communities. The panel, “**Broadband Connectivity in Tribal and Rural Communities**,” will specifically discuss Sen. Heinrich’s Tribal Connect Act of 2017 ([S.2205](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2205/)). Sen. Heinrich will introduce panelists in a discussion moderated by ALA Spectrum Scholar Elayne Silversmith, the branch librarian for the Vine Deloria, Jr. Library located in the National Museum of the American Indian’s Cultural Resources Center. Panelists include: Cynthia Aguilar, a librarian with Santo Domingo Pueblo in New Mexico; Hannah Buckland, director of Library Services at Leech Lake Tribal College in Minnesota and a member of the ALA Policy Corps; Irene Flannery, director of AMERIND Critical Infrastructure. There will also be a [simultaneous #critlib Twitter chat](http://critlib.org/twitter-chats/upcoming-twitter-chats/) during the panel to encourage participation virtually.

Also on April 12, WO staff will represent ALA at the Congressional App Challenge’s annual [#HouseOfCode Demo Day](http://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/news/2017-coming-houseofcode-demo-day/), the largest celebration of student computer science achievement on Capitol Hill. In a reception on Capitol Hill, students who participated in the 2017 **Congressional App Challenge** will demonstrate to lawmakers the apps they developed to win their congressional district’s coding contest. The WO has been a strong supporter of the App Challenge as a way to promote computer science education and library advocacy.

**WO, PLA begin preparations for 2020 Census**

The 2020 Census will be the first decennial census to provide an online response option, and this new e-government option may bring large numbers of users into libraries. WO staff have begun conversations with Census Bureau staff, complete count advocates and library leaders to ensure libraries are informed about the 2020 Census and can plan for potential demands. The Census Bureau has established an account manager, Cathy Hartz, to coordinate with ALA and libraries. Ms. Hartz, along with PLA and WO staff, spoke at the 2018 PLA Conference. In addition, ALA coordinated with state library and local public library leaders in Providence County, Rhode Island, to inform them about the test taking place there in April 2018, which will be the only full practice run in advance of the 2020 Census. As additional information emerges about plans for the 2020 Census, ALA will prepare a more detailed approach to ensure library professionals are informed and engaged.

**WO staff visit libraries around the country**

In keeping with the WO’s three-year plan, WO staff have continued to invest time in the field. During ALA’s Midwinter conference, staff toured the Denver Public Library, with particular attention to the staff of their central library makerspace, the “Idea Lab.” Later in February, several staff visited the U.S. Census Bureau library in Suitland, Md., and learned more about their physical and digital holdings. During the Public Library Association (PLA) conference in Philadelphia in March, staff took the opportunity to tour the Philadelphia Free Library. Associate Executive Director Kathi Kromer also traveled to Nashville for the Tennessee Library Association’s Library Legislative Day, where she delivered the keynote address, “The Pulse of National and Local Library issues,” and toured the Nashville Public Library with Library Director and ALA Committee on Legislation Chair Kent Oliver. In March, Public Policy Director Alan Inouye joined Kromer for a visit to Rhode Island, where they met with incoming ALA Executive Board member Ed Garcia, Rhode Island Library Association President Kieran Ayton, ALA Chapter Council member Jack Martin and Senator Jack Reed for a series of events and tours of libraries in Providence and Cranston.

**WO hosts library delegations**

In March the WO hosted the annual meeting of the Beta Phi Mu Iota Chapter National Library Honors Society annual meeting. Information service specialist Abigail Ellsworth Ross, principal of RoFinCo, LLC, gave the keynote speech, “How Not to be Replaced by a Robot.” Later in the month, the WO welcomed for a second time Catholic University Associate Professor and University Pre-Law Advisor Dr. Renate Chancellor’s “Libraries and Information in Society” class. The WO has continued its support for the D.C. library community, hosting the citywide Friends of the DC Public Library for their bimonthly meeting, which included discussion of local advocacy efforts. In addition, the DC Library Association organized a briefing, “What's New in Copyright?” with John Saint Amour of the U.S. Copyright Office, also held in the WO space.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND POLICY UPDATES

**Federal Library Funding and Programs**

* **Omnibus spending bill includes significant increases in funding for libraries**

The [FY 2018 omnibus spending bill](https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FY18-OMNI-LABOR-HHS-SUM.pdf) passed by Congress and signed by the President on March 23 included significant increases for several library priority programs. Highlights of the spending bill include a $9 million increase for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a level $27 million for Innovative Approaches to Literacy, a $22.1 million increase for the National Library of Medicine and a $700 million increase for Title IV, which will open new doors for school library funding. (A full chart of federal programs tracked by WO staff is [here](http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/FY2018-library-appropriations-snapshot.xlsx).) ALA’s campaign to save federal funding for libraries proved to be a tremendous success and puts library programs on a solid footing as Congress begins the FY 2019 appropriations cycle.

In addition to the funding increases, the spending package included a provision requiring public access to Congressional Research Service reports, something ALA has been advocating for some time (see “Government Information,” below).

* **ALA members urge signatures for FY 2019 Dear Appropriator letters**

The House Dear Appropriator Letter campaign was again successful as thousands of library advocates responded to ALA’s [call to action](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/fund-libraries) and emailed, called or visited their representatives to urge their support for the LSTA and IAL Dear Appropriator letters. The FY 2019 LSTA Dear Appropriator letter, led by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), called on Congress to provide at least $187 million for LSTA. This year, WO staff worked closely with state chapters and associations, generating over 45 letters to representatives from 15 state chapters, including Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. We also generated letters from COSLA, AILA and ATALM and worked with United for Libraries to activate Friends groups.

The LSTA letter was signed by 136 representatives (the second most ever), a solid result for only 10 days of campaigning; normally, there is a three- to four-week window to gather signatures. Four members submitted their own individual LSTA letter: Bustos (D-IL-17), Cardenas (D-CA-29), Lance (R-NJ-7) and Jenkins (R-KS-2). Several new members added signatures to the LSTA letter, and the number of Republicans on the letter rose from three to four. Taking into account two resignations, one death and committee shifts in the House, the number of LSTA signatories is the same as last year.

The FY 2019 IAL Dear Appropriator Letter was again led by four representatives: Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Rep. Don Young (R-AK), Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-NJ). The final count for the IAL letter was lower than last year, with 98 signatures compared to 146. ALA advocated for IAL alongside a large coalition of education partners, so the drop is not due to inactivity on the part of ALA advocates or allies. There is some sense that the focus of school programs and school libraries has shifted to the Title IV program, authorized under the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act. The $700 million increase in Title IV funding in FY 2018 may be evidence of this shift. WO staff, alongside colleagues at AASL, will continue to monitor the program and investigate potential changes in our policy advocacy.

The Senate Dear Appropriator campaign began on March 26 with Senator Jack Reed again leading the LSTA and IAL letters, along with bipartisan support from Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) co-leading the LSTA letter and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) co-leading the IAL letter. The deadline for Senate Dear Appropriator signatures is April 10.

* **ALA continues to seek cosponsors for MLSA reauthorization bill**

The WO continues to work with members to gain cosponsors for the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA), introduced last December by Senator Jack Reed (D-RI). The legislation would reauthorize IMLS, including improvements such as expanding program access for Tribal libraries and allowing grant funds to be used for disaster preparation and response. Sen. Reed introduced the bipartisan MLSA with Senators Collins (R-ME), Cochran (R-MS), Gillibrand (D-NY) and Murkowski (R-AK). As of March 27, the bill has 15 cosponsors. ALA has focused efforts on gaining support of members of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. A House companion is expected to be introduced later this spring.

**Telecommunications**

* + **ALA co-sponsored E-rate Summit and Celebration on Capitol Hill**

In January, Washington Office staff [joined](http://www.districtdispatch.org/2018/01/transformative-effects-e-rate/) education groups and other long-time advocates to commemorate the twentieth year of the implementation E-rate program. Hosted by National Coalition for Technology in Education and Training (NCTET), the event brought together E-rate champions Senators Edward J. Markey (D-MA) and John D. Rockefeller, who lauded the success of the bipartisan program in connecting libraries and schools to the internet. Following their remarks, Lauren Abner of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives shared how the E-rate program has benefitted Kentucky libraries and the communities they serve. Abner joined a panel that included other representatives from the public and private schools as well as Larry Irving, who is known as the originator of the term “digital divide.” FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel gave closing remarks. Following the panel session was an evening event attended by three of the five FCC commissioners as well as other E-rate dignitaries and champions.

* + **WO meets with key staff at the FCC on E-rate and internet access for Tribal libraries**

In preparation for anticipated work by the FCC on the E-rate program, WO staff met with the Wireline Competition Bureau team that manages the E-rate program at the FCC to discuss ALA priorities related to the open proceeding on the program’s Category Two process. WO staff raised concerns from ALA’s E-rate task force and the state E-rate coordinators regarding the annual training provided by Universal Service Administrative Company and approved by the FCC. Staff also met with the new Chief of the Office of Native Affairs and Policy and other Bureau staff to talk about their priorities related to broadband access for Native communities and discuss issues for Tribal libraries and participation in the E-rate program.

* + **ALA continues net neutrality advocacy**

ALA has focused much of its net neutrality advocacy over the past quarter on [urging members](https://cqrcengage.com/ala/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=443593) to support a Joint Resolution of Disapproval under the Congressional Review Act. This included coordinating closely with a larger coalition of supporters on the #OneMoreVote day of [action](http://www.districtdispatch.org/2018/02/ala-joins-operation-onemorevote/). As of March 27, the Senate is still one vote short, and the House has 150 of the needed 218 votes needed to advance the CRA. ALA is considering amicus options for legal challenges to the FCC at the appellate court level, as well as monitoring state-level net neutrality legislation and executive orders.

**Copyright**

* + **ALA members advocate for new legislation to ratify and implement Marrakesh Treaty**

On March 15, the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act ([S. 2559](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2559?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22S.+2559%22%5D%7D&r=1)) was introduced by bipartisan leaders of the Senate Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committees, nudging the United States further toward adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty. The international copyright treaty provides a copyright exception—the first ever in an international treaty—for libraries as authorized entities to make copies of entire articles and books accessible for people with print disabilities and distribute those copies across borders. If the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act is passed and signed by the president, the bill will greatly increase access for English speakers with print disabilities, especially in developing countries, where less than 1% of all published print content is accessible. The U.S. will benefit as well by being able to obtain foreign-language content, especially for Spanish speakers with print disabilities. To ensure passage of the legislation, WO issued an advocacy alert targeting members of the two Senate Committees. The bill must be passed in the Senate and the House before going to the president for signing.

* + **WO leads efforts to oppose the newly-introduced CLASSICS Act**

Since its introduction in the House ([H.R.3301](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3301/text?format=txt)) in March and in the Senate ([S.2393](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2393)) in February, WO’s copyright subcommittee and staff have led efforts to oppose the Compensating Legacy Artists for their Songs, Service, & Important Contributions to Society (CLASSICS Act). In collaboration with the Music Library Association, the Historical Coalition for Access and Preservation and other allies, WO developed a strategy and coordinated lobbying efforts to revise the proposed legislation in two ways. The first recommendation is that Congress include the public performance exception (Section 110) to clarify that libraries and educational institutions have a right to stream music for educational purposes. The second recommended revision to the CLASSICS Act is to shorten the proposed copyright term for sound recordings. (The pending legislation sets copyright term for all pre-1972 sound recordings to 2067. The Library Copyright Alliance. of which ALA is a founding member, and our allies argue for a rolling copyright term, 95 years from the point of fixation (e.g., placing a 1924 sound recording in the public domain in 2019 instead of 2067).

* + **WO staff, Re:create coalition meet with Acting U.S. Register of Copyrights**

WO staff joined with other members of the [Re:create Coalition](http://www.recreatecoalition.org/) in a meeting with Acting U.S. Register of Copyrights Karyn Temple Claggett, who provided an update on the five-year plan to dramatically update the technologies and digital infrastructure of the Copyright Office, which is part of the Library of Congress. Working collaboratively with Dr. Carla Hayden and the Library’s IT personnel, the Copyright Office will provide input and expertise necessary to digitize their operations. Claggett expressed a willingness to work with Re:create and reiterated that the Copyright Act should address the needs of both rights holders and users of information. ALA is a founding member of the Re:create coalition, which includes industry trade associations, creators and fans, civil society groups and libraries committed to promoting balanced copyright law.

* + **WO gathers evidence to support new copyright exemption for people with hearing disabilities**

For the third round of comments on 1201 rulemaking his year, ALA as part of the Library Copyright Alliance ([LCA](http://www.librarycopyrightalliance.org/)) joined the University of Colorado’s [Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law and Policy Clinic](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cainouye%5CDownloads%5CApr18%20compilation.docx) on a new [request](http://www.librarycopyrightalliance.org/storage/documents/2018.03.14_Reply_Comment_Disability_Services_ATSP_ARL_ALA_ACRL_AHEAD.pdf) to the Copyright Office on circumventing technologies on DVDs and Blu-Ray discs to enable closed captioning for people with hearing difficulties. In February, the motion picture industry filed [comments](https://www.copyright.gov/1201/2018/comments-021218/) in opposition to the exemption, arguing that the exemption was not necessary because nearly all DVDs included captions. WO staff, along with colleagues from the Association of College & Research Libraries, reached out to media librarians and asked them to identify works without captioning and received numerous titles as evidence. A librarian from Emory University conducted a search of their collection and reported that only 9,000 DVDs out of 28,000 titles included captioning, demonstrating that the motion picture industry’s argument was incorrect.

* + **CopyTalk webinar series marks fifth anniversary**

The monthly [CopyTalk](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/pp/pub/copytalk) webinar series established by the OITP copyright education subcommittee has entered its fifth year, presenting copyright issues of importance to members. The February and March 2018 webinars focused on learnings from copyright and scholarly communication librarians and undergraduate copyright course respectively. As recent webinars have exceeded capacity, organizers are exploring new technology to expand participation and provide accessibility for people with hearing disabilities.

**Government Information**

* + **ALA welcomes new law providing public access to Congressional Research Service Reports**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act signed by the president in March included a provision to provide public access to reports by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). ALA has long advocated for public access to CRS reports, dating back to a Council resolution adopted in 1998. CRS is a federal agency, housed within the Library of Congress, that prepares public policy research for members of Congress, including nonconfidential reports about a range of policy topics. These reports have not been routinely published, but the new provision now requires the Library to establish a website to provide free, online public access to the reports. The new legislation will enable libraries to provide their users with free, authentic copies of these useful public policy reports.

* + **ALA advocates for bill to modernize Federal Depository Library Program**

The bipartisan FDLP Modernization Act of 2018 ([H.R. 5305](http://www.districtdispatch.org/2018/03/long-awaited-fdlp-modernization-act-strengthen-public-access-government-information/)) was introduced on March 15 following months of work by the Committee on House Administration. The bill would modernize the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and related programs that provide public access to government information. The bill was developed with input from the library community following a series of [public hearings](http://www.districtdispatch.org/2017/09/20-years-house-hearing-focuses-depository-libraries/) in 2017 which included testimony from librarians, and it incorporates many of the [recommendations](http://www.districtdispatch.org/2017/09/dear-congress-heres-ensure-public-access-government-information/) ALA sent to the Committee. While earlier, unintroduced drafts of the legislation dealt with a wide range of topics related to the Government Publishing Office (GPO) and government printing, the FDLP Modernization Act focuses solely on the FDLP and the Superintendent of Documents’ programs that provide public access to government information. ALA sent a letter of support, along with the American Association of Law Libraries and the Association of Research Libraries, following the bill’s introduction. The Committee is expected to consider the legislation on April 12.