

WASHINGTON OFFICE SIX MONTH REPORT

ALA advises FCC why maintaining strong broadband privacy rules benefits the schools and communities that libraries serve

When the FCC determined just over a year ago that it prospectively treat the providers of consumer privacy protection standards the Commission would hold providers unclear. Recently, however, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler announced the outline of a proposal that likely will be voted on at the end of March. In anticipation of that meeting and likely State Educational Technology Directors Association [telling the Commission](#) to move forward with a broadband privacy rulemaking and explaining why strong broadband privacy rules are necessary for schools and libraries and the communities we serve.

ALA advocates adding broadband to Lifeline at FCC and on Hill

The FCC continues work on its proposed [modernization](#) which traditionally applied to telephone service and is slated for an FCC vote on March 31. Recognizing that access to is expected to rule that the \$9.25 subsidy for lower income individuals can be used to secure access to broadband families. ALA has been actively engaged in supporting this modernization meeting with FCC Commissioners and staff; filing [public comments](#) with the FCC; and collaborating with [diverse coalition](#) of public interest groups on joint letters, talking points and Congressional outreach. Net Neutrality, ERate, Lifeline Programs Likely Safe from Legislative Attack in Current Congress Congressional Republicans have expressed strong opposition to a number of regulations issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the past year addressing network neutrality, the Lifeline and E-rate programs, and other policies. While some in the majority have called for Congressional action to [enact funding caps](#) on Lifeline (both strongly supported by ALA), it does not appear that Republicans will be able to gain the bipartisan support needed to pass legislation materially affecting these important FCC initiatives in either chamber of Congress.

In other broadband/communications related news, in April ALA was invited by the newly created Congressional Rural Broadband Caucus to participate in a briefing for Congressional staff and the public on the role of libraries in providing connectivity for rural businesses and encouraging entrepreneurship. As reported in [District Dispatch](#) by OGR assistant director Kevin Maher, who also attended a response to questions from Congressional staff Marijke also detailed library service to veterans OGR will continue to collaborate with the new Caucus to build an understanding of, and support for, library funding and programs among all Members of Congress, particularly those representing rural areas.

Through the voice of LCA, ALA is advocating for copyright policy reforms

The Library Copyright Alliance (of which ALA and ACRL are members) submitted comments to the Copyright Office on two concerns. The first is regarding the triennial 1201 rulemaking process on anti-circumvention. The LCA argues that the process is time and resource consuming and that previously made exemptions such as circumvention of DRM on DVDs for classroom use of film clips should be made permanent if there is no objection from the copyright holder and that if seeking to renew an exemption, the burden of proof should be on the rights holder to show harm. The second concern is the notice and takedown provision of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. LCA argues that the third party liability provision is necessary for libraries, particularly to protect libraries when library users allegedly infringe

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signatures by Members of Congress on [the Senate LST on](#) support of [the](#) [state](#) [appeals](#) [made](#) [in](#) [conjunction](#) [with](#) [state](#) [chapters](#) [produced](#): [more](#) [than](#) [14,000](#) [confirmed](#) [individual](#) [emails](#) [by](#) [ALA](#) [members](#) [and](#) [other](#) [library](#) [supporters](#), [at](#) [least](#) [725](#) [tweets](#), [and](#) [a](#) [significant](#) [volume](#) [of](#) [non-logged](#) [phone](#) [calls](#). [These](#) [contacts](#) [resulted](#) [in](#) [34](#) [and](#) [31](#) [signatures](#) [on](#) [the](#) [Senate](#) [LST](#) [on](#)

ALA Opposes Congressional Moves to Block LC Subject Heading Changes

As reported recently in both [mainstream press](#) and [District Dispatch](#), the House Legislative Branch appropriations bill recently was approved by the full House Appropriations Committee on May 17 with report (not bill) language effectively instructing the Library of Congress not to use pejorative terms. The action came after an amendment (struck by ALA and ALCTS)

encryption systems can or must be built with enforcement access and/or surveillance has become legislative. As expected at last report, several bills addressing the issue in multiple ways already have been introduced or are anticipated imminently. Specifically, House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R

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signature threshold. Coalition efforts to secure that detailed reply continue. In addition, in early
January ALA and scores of international organizations and individual technical experts
[to the President](#) asking him to affirmatively and publicly reject policies that would weaken

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authors, are available on the [Demand Progress website](#). Currently the public is able to get only piecemeal access to these reports as they are released at the discretion of various Congressional offices. ALA has expressed its appreciation to Senators John McCain (AZ) and Patrick Leahy (VT) who sponsored the bill in the Senate and Representatives Leonard Lance (NJ) and Mike Quigley (ID) who introduced it jointly in the House. OGRdocs is working closely with these offices and others in Congress to bring this long overdue legislation to a vote in both chambers.

Legislation Mandating Broad Public Access to CRS Reports Likely Stalled

As reported previously, ALA joined with a number of other groups to support the early March markup of [S. 2639](#) and [H.R. 4702](#). Given the compressed congressional calendar, on April 14, ALA again teamed with our coalition partners [to urge House and Senate committees to move forward with a markup of the bill](#). While that has not yet happened, Rep. Quigley (who introduced H.R. 4702) attempted to provide access to CRS reports through an alternative route, introducing two amendments during the House Appropriations Committee markup on May 17. Regrettably, both amendments failed.

The first amendment, as proposed in H.R. 4702, would have directed the Government Publishing Office (GPO) to establish and maintain a public website to provide searchable, sortable, and downloadable public access to Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports without charge. When that amendment failed, Rep. Quigley then offered language to the appropriations bill that merely would have required a comprehensive list of all CRS reports produced (properly confidential documents excepted as in H.R. 4702) to be made publicly available. The lack of support during the House Appropriations markup is of concern, but ALA and our partners will continue to try to move this issue forward. That effort is likely to continue in the 115th Congress, which will be constituted in early 2017.

Seamus Kraft wins 2016 James Madison Award

On March 11th, ALA president Sari Feldman [awarded Seamus Kraft with the James Madison award](#). Kraft has engineered a number of breakthrough initiatives aimed at opening government access and transparency to the public. Those projects include: creating America Decoded, which publishes legal codes, legislative data and existing laws in standardized data for major states and cities; launching MADISON, an open legislative data and engagement platform for writing, publishing and annotating legislation of federal, state and local governments; being the driving force behind the recent successful bipartisan push that officially opened the House of Representatives to opensource software; and hosting four, nationwide #Hack4Congress events to catalyze progress and strengthen the open government community.

Broad FOIA reform bill passes in the Senate

[A year after it was introduced](#), the Senate finally voted on [S. 337, the FOIA Improvement Act](#) and the bill passed unanimously. It is now time for the Senate and House negotiators to work on [H.R. 653](#), which passed the House on May 17, 2016.

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unanimously in January of this year. With an extra summer recess to accommodate the 2016 elections themselves, there will be tight if Congress and the public are to avoid the sad situation we were left in at the end of the 113th Congress where we simply ran out to enact FOIA reform in 2014. Thanks to Senator John Cornyn (R), Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R) and Judiciary Ranking Member Patrick Leahy (D) not only for introducing and supporting S. 337 in the current Congress, but for their longstanding commitment to meaningful FOIA reform over many years and multiple Congresses. We now have forward movement!

National Library Legislative Day Tops Grassroots Highlights List

Just over 400 participants from all but three states again participated in National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) in Washington. Participants reacted favorably to changes in the structure of the event, including particularly condensed issue briefings and added time for a media training panel. Traditionally offered on the day, a breakfast was also provided. Subscription by more than 120 first-time NLLD participants necessitated the addition of a second training session for the first time. Constructive and friendly rivalry between our respective grassroots netted more than 630 contacts by HPA members and almost 2200 contacts by ALA activists to congressional offices in support of federal funding, copyright and privacy legislation. They discussed the above).

This year for the first time, we were able to stream the morning briefings for those who participated in NLLD virtually.

NLLD participants were afforded a preview of the

ALA Holds First Ever National Policy Convening

ALA held a [National Policy Convening](#) in Washington, D.C., April 12-13, to highlight the contributions of libraries to national policy priorities and raise the profile of libraries within the policy community. Chaired by ALA President Sari Feldman, the convening included a broad range of speakers that included a U.S. Senator

administration. His projects will focus on social media and the web and how ALA can better leverage communications technologies to achieve more effective policy advocacy.

ALA Briefs Congressional Caucus on Value of Broadband for Rural Libraries

At the April meeting of the bipartisan Congressional Rural Broadband Caucus, OITP Associate Director Marijke Visser and panelists from the public and private sectors briefed the caucus, congressional staff and a general audience at a public session. Panelists have helped small businesses develop business plans, conduct market research, foster employee certification, use 3D printers, and even use library software programs to design and print creative menus for a restaurant. Membership in the caucus currently stands at 34 representatives.

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OITP Deputy Director Larra Clark, speakers from the Council of Better Business Bureaus (BBB), Nielsen and the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) in a roundtable by Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R) and former Federal Trade Commissioner Julie Brill talking about the importance of the \$1 trillion digital economy and the need for tools to help people be smart online and protect themselves against hackers and scams. Brill referenced [analysis](#) from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) citing that a lack of trust in Internet privacy and security may deter online activities.