

**2012-2013 ALA CD#10.1  
2013 ALA Annual Conference**

**WASHINGTON OFFICE**

**6 Month Report**

**June 14, 2013**

**OFFICE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY (OITP)**

**How Libraries are Evolving in the New Digital Realm**

In May, *American Libraries* and OITP released the digital supplement *Digital Content: What's Next?* The future-focused digital supplement examines how libraries are evolving in response to the digital revolution, including exploiting opportunities in self-publishing, while confronting challenges in licensing constraints. The digital supplement also details progress made by the ALA's Digital Content Working Group to advocate for equitable access to ebooks produced by the world's largest book publishers.

The supplement *Digital Content: What's Next?* is the third supplement to *American Libraries* magazine on ebooks and digital content. For more information about the ALA's efforts on digital content and libraries, visit the American Libraries E-content blog. Read the full report:

<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/7d9e3366>.

**OITP Speaks at Digital Inclusion Conference**

In April, Alan Inouye presented at the Digital Inclusion in Texas Conference and Colloquium at the University of Texas at Austin. The event was a synthesis of practice, research, and public policy centered around projects funded by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, public computer centers, broadband deployment, and related topics. Inouye was a panelist at the session "The Future of Public Internet Access," which was moderated by Kenneth Flamm (University of Texas at Austin). Fellow panelists included Jay Schwarz (Federal Communications Commission) and Laura Breeden (National Telecommunications and Information Administration). Alan also moderated a panel on research and data.

**OITP Talks Ebooks with Publishers**

On April 9, 2013, Maureen Sullivan led an ALA delegation to New York to meet with publishers and others in the publishing ecosystem; the delegation includes Barbara Stripling (ALA President-elect), DCWG Co-chair Robert Wolven, Alan S. Inouye, and Marijke Visser (ALA staff). In May, Maureen, Keith Michael Fiels, and Alan participated in sessions and meetings at Book Expo America in New York. Maureen served on a panel on ebooks, authors, and library lending.

## **OITP Provides Insights on E-book Market for YALSA Publication**

Marijke Visser, associate director for the ALA Program on Networks, contributed to a recent issue of *Young Adult Library Services*, a YALSA publication. The article, titled “E-Books? So What’s the Big Deal?” described some of the challenges libraries are facing as they embark on the unknown world of e-books.

## **DCWG Releases Report on Evaluating Ebook License Terms**

To help public libraries navigate through the ebook environment, ALA released “The Business Model Scorecard,” a report that examines specific variables often seen in library ebook license contracts. The report, which was created by the ALA Digital Content & Libraries Working Group, can be used by librarians to weigh ebook contract variables most important to their library. The report assesses 15 ebook contract variables of importance to libraries, ranging from ebook title inclusion, to ebook pricing, to immediate patron access.

[http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Ebook\\_scorecard.pdf](http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Ebook_scorecard.pdf)

## **DCWG Hosts Popular E-book Sessions at ALA Midwinter Meeting**

The ALA Digital Content Working Group hosted two well-attended sessions on e-books at the Midwinter Meeting. The first e-book session—titled “Starting from Scratch: New Recipes for Ebook Models that Work”—discussed current e-book lending systems and offered perspectives on future directions. The second session, titled “E-books and Libraries: Where Do We Stand and Where Are We Going?” discussed ALA initiatives taken thus far and explored ALA e-book policy strategies for the future. The second session included a leading panel of experts and practitioners from the e-book publishing ecosystem that illuminated policy priorities for ALA going forward.

## **OITP, Maureen Sullivan Release All-Member Communication on Ebooks**

In a message to members of the American Library Association, President Maureen Sullivan detailed steps taken by the organization over the past year to advocate for library access to fairly priced e-book titles. In the statement, Sullivan sums up work accomplished by the ALA Digital Content Working Group, including relationship-building with publishers, increased media outreach and information resources and tools for libraries and library advocates. The communications includes a detailed text report and an accompanying highlights video.

<http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/e-content/message-all-ala-members-ala-president-maureen-sullivan>

## **Public Libraries Critical Partner in Ad Council, Digital Literacy Campaign**

Public libraries, Connect2Compete, their national partners, and the Ad Council have joined together and launched EveryoneOn on March 21, 2013. The EveryoneOn campaign mission is to empower people by giving them the tools and confidence they need to improve their lives through the Internet. Libraries and other community-based organizations are critical to the success of this national campaign in our communities across the country.

Using public libraries as critical partners, the campaign will encourage people who do not regularly use the Internet to find free training opportunities already provided by libraries (and other community-based organizations). Libraries can add information about their digital literacy programs to the zip code locator tool to help people find help more easily. People looking for free digital literacy training also can call 855-EVERY1ON (387-9166) or text CONNECT to 30364 or CONECTA to 30364 (in Spanish) to find nearby training. The campaign will teach the public about the importance of technology in developing digital skills via advertisements, public service announcements and social media activities over the next three years.

<http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/03/putting-libraries-on-the-national-stage/>

### **FCC Chairman Addresses ALA Conference, Role of Libraries in Digital Literacy**

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski released a video message to more than 10,000 librarians and library advocates at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. “For millions of Americans, libraries are the only place where they can get online. For millions more, libraries are an important complement to their at-home connectivity,” says Chairman Genachowski in the video. Libraries may access and share the video with other key stakeholders by visiting the ALA Washington Office’s [YouTube channel](#).

### **ALA Digital Literacy Task Force Releases Report on Digital Inclusion**

The ALA Digital Literacy Task Force released “Digital Literacy, Libraries, and Public Policy,” a comprehensive report that provides a broad overview of digital literacy in the context of school, public, and academic libraries. The report explores the ways that various libraries support digital literacy programs for their students and patrons. In addition to this new report, the Task Force is developing a set of recommendations to the library community as well as policy makers and potential funders to continue and expand libraries’ engagement and leadership to effect meaningful and sustainable change in our communities. These recommendations will be a companion piece to this report. <http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/01/on-the-front-lines-of-digital-inclusion/>

### **ALA welcomes White House call for increased E-rate funding for libraries and schools**

Maureen Sullivan released a statement regarding President Obama’s announcement of the ConnectED initiative. The initiative aims to connect America’s students to high-capacity broadband and high-speed wireless. “ALA is encouraged by President Obama’s announcement of the [ConnectED initiative](#) to ensure that libraries and schools have access to robust, affordable high-capacity broadband for many years to come,” said Sullivan. “School and public libraries provide rich opportunities for students to actively engage and collaborate with peers and mentors using increasingly varied technology tools.”

### **Commissioner Rosenworcel Digs Into E-rate 2.0**

In April, Federal Communications Commission Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel called for a thorough review of the E-rate program to ensure the program meets the future connectivity needs of libraries and schools. The Commissioner boldly outlined her vision for E-rate 2.0, building on earlier statements from Senate Commerce Committee Chair Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) during a

recent FCC oversight hearing. The Commissioner identified five points as part of her E-rate 2.0 plan. ALA was pleased to hear that infusing more funding into the program was her number one point. She suggested the Commission do some of its own “housekeeping” in other Universal Service programs that could yield savings that could be invested in the E-rate program. ALA exerted influence through in-person meetings, emails, and phone calls, which included a direct call between Commissioner Rosenworcel and OITP staffer Marijke Visser.

### **OITP Releases E-rate Report**

The E-rate program is approaching its own version of the federal budget fiscal cliff. OITP Fellow Bob Bocher explains the E-rate cliff in preparation for discussions for how to address the impending shortfall.

<http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/02/e-rates-looming-fiscal-cliff/>

### **Report Highlights Library and Community Impacts from Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

In February, the American Library Association Office for Information Technology Policy released the first national report detailing U.S. library engagement with the \$4 billion Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The preliminary report highlights statewide library BTOP projects and their community impacts in improving public access to technology resources, digital literacy, workforce development and stronger collaborations and integrated services.

View the report at [http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/ALA\\_BTOP\\_Report.pdf](http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/ALA_BTOP_Report.pdf)

In May, OITP released the final report, “U.S. Public Libraries and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program,” which details U.S. library engagement with the federal program. The report is the first to highlight state and local library BTOP projects nationwide and the improvements they have made to public access technology resources, digital literacy, and workforce development. Library projects in 29 states and the District of Columbia are featured in the report. ALA estimates about 20 percent of U.S. public libraries have benefited from BTOP funding. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration awarded just over \$4 billion to 233 BTOP projects. The NTIA established BTOP to increase broadband access and adoption nationwide, and U.S. state and public libraries have been critical partners in this effort.

### **ALA Supports WIPO Treaty**

The American Library Association supports the Treaty for the Blind, a treaty that would allow international book lending to print-disabled people—including those who are blind, have low vision, are dyslexic, have a learning disability or other disability that prevents them from accessing print—by promoting an exception to copyright law. The exception would ask WIPO member nations to establish a national exception that authorizes the making of accessible copies. This copyright exception would be similar to the Chafee Amendment in U.S. copyright law. In addition, the exception would allow countries to share accessible copies (Braille, large print, digital formats like accessible e-books) across borders. Negotiations are reaching a fever pitch with many powerful corporations, including General Electric, Exxon, and the motion picture and publishing industries opposing the treaty.

### **LCA Comments on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

The [Library Copyright Alliance](#) has released these [comments](#) regarding United States negotiating stance on the [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#) questioning whether the United States should negotiate an intellectual property section in the trade agreement given the differences between EU and US copyright laws.

### **Bestselling Author to Host Copyright Workshop Tailored to School Librarians**

To help school librarians and educators better understand copyright law, author Carrie Russell hosted the workshop “Copyright for K-12 Librarians and Educators” on April 11, 2013. Russell is also the director of the American Library Association’s Program on Public Access to Information. In the workshop, Russell discussed her newly released book *Copyright for K-12 Librarians and Educators* and offer guidance on ways to legally provide materials to students by exploring common scenarios encountered by school educators and librarians.

### **ALA Staff Moderate School, Health and Libraries Broadband Conference**

ALA and libraries were well-represented at the School, Health and Libraries Broadband (SHLB) conference, with OITP Assistant Director Marijke Visser and OITP Fellow Bob Bocher leading a session on policy implications of the E-rate funding shortage; Denise Hendlmyer from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission speaking on a broadband adoption plenary panel; Jamie Hollier with PLA’s DigitalLearn.org; Corinne Hill, executive director for the Chattanooga Public Library, on the “What To Do with a Gig” panel.

### **Pew Study Defines Parental Relationships with Libraries**

A new Pew study released in May shows that the majority of parents highly value one resource for their children: libraries. Ninety-four percent say libraries are important for their children, according to new report by the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project. The study, “Parents’ and Children’s Special Relationship with Reading and Libraries,” reveals the strong connections parents have with public libraries. In response to the report, President Maureen Sullivan released a statement. OITP Advisory Committee member Bobbi Newman (and Council member) and OITP staffer Larra Clark serve on Pew’s advisory committee for library-related studies.

### **Pew Study Finds Patrons Want Books and Technology**

The Pew Research Center released the Internet & American Life Project report “Library Services in the Digital Age,” a study that examines the role of libraries in communities and the kinds of services people would like to see from libraries. The report found that people value public libraries and librarians and believe they are important to their communities, and that libraries continue to be at the forefront of bridging the digital divide.  
<http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/01/pew-report-finds-librarians-want-books-and-technology/>

### **ALA Honors Five Libraries for Offering Cutting-edge Services**

In January, ALA recognized five libraries for offering cutting-edge technologies in library services, honoring programs in Boston; New York; Tucson, Ariz.; Orlando, Fla.; and Le Roy, N.Y. The recognition, a collaboration with LITA, showcases libraries that are serving their

communities using novel and innovative methods. Libraries and library service areas selected will be highlighted through various ALA publications and featured in a program at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. <http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/01/cutting-edge-2013>

### **ALA Leaders Contribute to Maine Policy Review**

Several ALA leaders contributed to a recent issue of the Maine Policy Review. The special issue, titled “Libraries and Information,” focused on the current state and future directions of librarianship and the knowledge society. In one article, Linda Lord, chair of the E-rate Task Force, describes the role of the Maine State Library and how it differs from other libraries. Tom Allen, president of the Association of American Publishers, talks about the challenges of library e-book lending from the publisher perspective. President Maureen Sullivan offers a bit more optimistic view in her article “Libraries and Book Publishers.”

OITP assistant director Marijke Visser discusses library roles in digital literacy in her article “Digital Literacy and Public Policy through the Library Lens.” She distills discussions from our Digital Literacy Task Force that recently completed its work. Libraries—of all types—have an important place in the information ecosystem to advance digital literacy, from the most rudimentary training to more advanced concepts such as relevancy, credibility, copyright, and privacy. Read the full article: <http://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mpr/vol22/iss1/>.

### **OITP Staff Present at Independent Book Publishers Association Conference**

OITP staff attended the Independent Book Publishers Association Conference to serve on a panel on e-books. The conference session, titled “The 21st Century Library: How Publishers Can Reach Patrons,” focused on the ways that libraries (and publishers) are undergoing a revolution as technology affects what patrons want and how they want it. The panel was moderated by Roy Carlisle of The Independent Institute, and other panelists included Monique Sendze, associate director of Information Technology at Douglas County Libraries; and Andrew Medlar, assistant commissioner for Collections for Chicago Public Library.

### **Jamie Schleser Selected for 2013 ALA Google Policy Fellowship**

Jamie Aurelia Schleser, a doctoral student from American University, serves as the American Library Association’s 2013 Google Policy Fellow. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Schleser began her ten weeks in Washington, D.C. working with OITP on technology and Internet policy issues. As a Google Policy Fellow, Schleser works in diverse areas of information policy that include digital copyright, e-book licenses and access, telecommunications policy, digital literacy, online privacy, and the future of libraries. Her dissertation examines how networked memory institutions—including the Internet Archive, the World Digital Library and the Digital Public Library of America—are using the Internet to inform cultural production and communication in broad strokes.

### **OITP Participates in Alternative Spring Break**

Claire Abraham and Jonathan Davidson, two graduate students at the School of Information at the University of Michigan, worked at the Washington Office for their 2013 Alternative Spring

Break assignment. In addition to learning about ALA public policy work, they developed elevator stories about the library ebook problem.

<http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/03/from-michigan-to-the-capital/>

## **OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS (OGR)**

### **ALA calls for accountability and transparency in nation's surveillance laws**

ALA was gravely concerned, but unfortunately not surprised, at the June revelation that the U.S. government obtained the phone records of all Verizon (and maybe other telephone companies) and Internet companies' customers for the last seven years. ALA called upon Congress to provide more accountability and transparency about how the government is obtaining and using vast amounts of information about innocent people.

"The library community welcomes a renewed public debate on how to balance the need to fight terrorism and the need to protect personal privacy and civil liberties," said ALA President Maureen Sullivan.

ALA's response follows media reports that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) has every three months, for seven years, been renewing a Section 215 order to obtain phone records of all Verizon customers. The FISC is a secret court authorized to issue such orders under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA.) In a public hearing, Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) indicated that the order identified in news reports is just a "regular" renewal of an order that started seven years ago.

### **Journalists Threatened by Secret DOJ Subpoena**

In addition to following congressional and executive branch activities on the Electronic Communications Privacy Act and other cybersecurity-related proposals, OGR staff have been closely watching the "AP-DOJ surveillance" situation. The recent chilling revelation that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) obtained two-months of phone records of *Associated Press* reporters and editors is most disturbing and proves the arguments that ALA and others have made over the years about the risks of the government secretly collecting wholesale amounts of data and with no due process for any appeals. Using a secret subpoena process, DOJ was able to obtain basic information about phone calls from over 20 different phone lines used by many AP staff, but apparently not the content of these phone calls. ALA is a member of [OPENTHEGOVERNMENT.ORG](http://OPENTHEGOVERNMENT.ORG), which released a statement. Normally, DOJ follows its own strict guidelines outlining how to obtain such records from news organizations, which usually includes an advance notice to news organizations and reporters. This protocol was apparently not followed. OGR staff is closely following this situation – which is unfolding rapidly, at this writing.

## **ALA Posthumously Honors Aaron Swartz with Madison Award**

ALA posthumously awarded activist Aaron Swartz the 2013 James Madison Award for his dedication to promoting and protecting public access to research and government information. ALA President, Maureen Sullivan presented the award to Swartz's family during the 15th Annual Freedom of Information Day in Washington, D.C. Before his untimely death in January, Swartz was an outspoken advocate for public participation in government and unrestricted access to peer-reviewed scholarly articles. Swartz was a co-founder of Demand Progress, an advocacy group that organizes people to take action on civil liberties and government reform issues. Swartz was also a leader in the national campaign to prevent the passing of the Stop Online Piracy Act, a bill that would have diminished critical online legal protections.

Swartz was revered as a gifted computer programmer long before he became a public activist. He helped to develop the web feed format RSS, the website framework web.py and the social news website Reddit. As a teenager, Swartz designed the code layer for the Creative Commons licenses. The award, which is named in honor of President James Madison, honors individuals who have championed, protected and promoted public access to government information and the public's right to know national information. ALA has long been a supporter of open access policies that increase the amount of research made available to the public.

## **ALA Joins Coalition to Oppose CISPA**

The ALA belongs to a coalition of Internet advocacy organizations and individuals that launched a week of action to combat the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA). Viewing CISPA as one of the greatest threats to Internet users since SOPA, the coalition intended to leverage popular outrage to oppose the dangerously broad cybersecurity bill. Other members of the coalition include the Constitution Project, Demand Progress, and the Electronic Frontier Foundation. [View opposition letter.](#)

The objectionable provisions of CISPA include: eviscerating existing privacy laws by giving legal immunity to companies who share users' private information, including the content of communications, with the government; authorizing companies to disclose users' data directly to the NSA, a military agency that operates secretly and without public accountability; and broad definitions that allow users' sensitive personal information to be used for a range of purposes, including "national security," not just computer and network security.

The coalition believes that legislation intended to enhance our computer and network security must not sacrifice long-standing civil liberties and protections.

## **ESEA Reauthorization Bill Introduced in U.S. Senate**

The Strengthening America's Schools Act, a bill that would reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), was introduced in the United States Senate. S 1094 is a huge victory for libraries as it creates a specific provision for school libraries and implements the Improving Literacy and College and Career Readiness through Effective School Library Program. The bill is the first to recognize the role school library programs play in student learning since the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was first enacted in 1965.

## **Sequestration Goes into Effect**

In March, sequestration—automatic cuts to all federal discretionary programs—went into effect after Congress could not reach an agreement on a deficit reduction plan. As a result, sequestration will impact all libraries served by state library agencies. The Institute for Museum and Library Services has been cut by \$12 million, which includes \$7.866 million in cuts to the Library Services and Technology Act (the federal sequester will mean a 5 percent cut in the \$232 million allocated to IMLS).

Overall, state programs will be cut, and each state will decide how the reduced budgets will affect the services delivered to the public, it may include the reduction of summer reading programs, database subscriptions, workforce development programs including employment skills and job searching, and services to people with disabilities. Future grant program budgets will also be slashed, though grants already awarded will not be affected by sequestration.

## **Appropriations (LSTA) Letter Makes Rounds in House and Senate**

In April 2013, two "Dear Colleague" letters were sent to the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. One of these letters, that was sponsored by Representatives Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and Rush Holt (D-NJ) included 56 other signatures from Members of Congress asking for the committee to fund LSTA at \$184.7 million in FY' 2014. Likewise, another letter was sent to the Appropriations Committee with 103 signatures and sponsored by Reps. James McGovern (D-MA), Don Young (R-AK), Holt and Grijalva. This letter asked the committee to appropriate \$28.6 million for Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL).

As in the House, there were also two letters asking for library funding that were sent to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee with bi-partisan support. The first letter, sent by Sens Jack Reed (D-RI) and Susan Collins (R-ME) with 34 other signatures asked for \$184.7 million for LSTA in FY 2014. The second letter that was sent by Sens. Reed and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and 24 other members asked the committee for \$28.6 million for Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL).

## **Maureen Sullivan, Library Advocates Tell Legislators to Protect Library Funding**

Hundreds of librarians and library supporters—375 to be exact.....from across the country representing 48 of the 50 states--- traveled to Washington, D.C. on May 7–8, 2013, to meet with members of Congress to discuss key library issues during the American Library Association's 39<sup>th</sup> annual National Library Legislative Day. The event focused on supporting federal funding for national libraries. Advocates discussed the need to fund the Library Services and Technology Act, support legislation that gives people who use libraries access to federally-funded scholarly journal articles and continue funding that provides school libraries with needed funds for materials. Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) was presented with United for Libraries' Public Service Award. Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL) and Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) were among the other legislators who attended ALA's congressional reception. Those who could not attend NLLD in person were able to contact Congress as part of Virtual Library Legislative Day. Over 1400 calls and emails were directed toward Capitol Hill as part of this effort.

## **Library Leaders Head to the White House during Legislative Day**

As part of the week-long activities for National Library Legislative Day, the IMLS arranged a meeting to bring together library leaders with President Barack Obama's Domestic Policy Council staff. As part of the meeting, the group discussed where library priorities meshed with the President's agenda. The Domestic Policy Council staff left very enthusiastic, and both IMLS and ALA leadership were pleased by the eagerness of the meeting. Meeting attendees included Maureen Sullivan, ALA President; Carolyn Brodie, president, Association for Library Service to Children; Mary Wells, domestic policy assistant for the Obama Administration, Susan Hildreth, IMLS director; Jack Martin, president, Young Adult Library Services Association, Steve Robinson, staff member, Domestic Policy Council, Eva Poole, president, Public Library Association; and Mandy Cohen, staff member, Department of Health and Human Services.

## **Copyright Update**

The ALA Washington Office is reconfiguring its copyright team in order to effectively respond to the many legislative and policy challenges expected in the coming months, including a call by Rep. Bob Goodlatte to proceed with a comprehensive review of copyright law in the coming months. After the departure of Corey Williams, her duties are being redistributed among a reconfigured copyright team that will include Carrie Russell, ALA's long-time copyright specialist and Director of OITP's Program for Access to Information, Jessica McGilvray, OGR Assistant Director, and Ted Wegner, OGR Grassroots Coordinator. They will share additional responsibilities in the copyright arena and Lynne Bradley, OGR Director, will back up all three due to her overall expertise. ALA will continue to retain attorney Jonathan Band for expert legal advice while the team will share ALA's work in the Library Copyright Alliance and other coalitions. Every effort will be made to continue to participate in speaking opportunities and conferences while work with coalitions and other organizations will continue as the team continues to keep ALA "at the table" making library copyright concerns known to other stakeholders.

## **Library Copyright Alliance Submits Comments on Orphan Works**

In January, the Library Copyright Alliance, whose members are the American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries and Association of College and Research Libraries, filed comments with the U.S. Copyright Office in response to their October 22, 2012, Notice of Inquiry about the current state of play with orphan works and mass digitization. In its comments, LCA explains that "significant changes in the copyright landscape over the past seven years convince us that libraries no longer need legislative reform in order to make appropriate uses of orphan works." If Congress does consider legislation, LCA suggests that Congress abandon the overly complex arrangement it arrived at in 2008 and instead make a simple one sentence amendment to the Copyright Act giving courts the discretion to reduce or remit statutory damages in appropriate circumstances.

## **Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Libraries, Consumer Rights**

On March 19, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court supported consumer rights and libraries in the high-profile *Kirtsaeng v. Wiley & Sons, Inc.* case by ruling that goods lawfully made overseas are

protected by the first sale doctrine. The Kirtsaeng case focused on whether Americans and businesses had the right to sell, lend, or give away the things they own that were made overseas. The case centered on a graduate student, Supap Kirtsaeng, who bought textbooks published by John Wiley & Sons in Thailand and sold them online in the United States. Kirtsaeng was sued by the book publisher, who claimed that the right of first sale did not apply because the books were manufactured overseas.

The court case ruling could have greatly affected libraries, as the first sale doctrine allows libraries to lend books and other materials to the public. With this decision, the Court upheld the rights of libraries to loan materials lawfully to their patrons regardless of where those materials have been manufactured. In anticipation of this ruling, the ALA joined the Owners Rights Initiative (ORI), a broad coalition of companies and other organizations who advocate and lobby to preserve the first sale doctrine. ALA will continue to work with ORI should any legislative action be taken against first sale under the principle that when we buy it, we can lend it.

### **Rep. Holt Introduces Workforce Funding Bill**

In January, Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) reintroduced H.R. 113, the Workforce Investment through Local Libraries Act (WILL) for the new 113th Congress. The WILL Act would allow libraries the access to Workforce Investment Act funds to continue to provide job search support in communities all across America. The bill also recognizes public libraries as an allowable “One-Stop” partner and authorizes new demonstration and pilot projects to establish employment resources in public libraries. This will allow library users access to workforce activities and information related to training services and employment opportunities, including but not limited to resume development, job bank web searches, literacy services, and workshops on career information. The legislation would amend the Workforce Investment Act to include library representation on state and local workforce investment boards as well as assure coordination of employment, training, and literacy services carried out by public libraries. Many parts of his bill were included in the SKILLS Act.

### **House passes the Workforce Investment Act**

In March, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 803, the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act which would reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The ALA Washington Office has been working with Members on both sides of the aisle on this legislation and is encouraged that H.R. 803 would help to ensure greater participation of libraries in our nation’s workforce investment system. In particular, H.R. 803 includes provisions that ensure the state workforce investment plan includes a description of the actions that will be taken by the state to foster communication, coordination, and partnerships with non-profit organizations – including public libraries.

Next, this legislation will move on to the U.S. Senate where it will have a monumental task at getting passed. However, we are beginning to reach out to the Senate to help ensure that their version of WIA reauthorization legislation also includes provisions that would encourage greater participation of libraries in the workforce development system.

## **Senator Jack Reed Introduces Workforce Investments through Local Libraries Act**

In May, Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) introduced legislation to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 that will integrate public libraries into state and local workforce investment boards. Senator Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) co-sponsored the bill. The bill, the Workforce Investments through Local Libraries (WILL) Act, would expand libraries' opportunities to take leading roles in helping the public find employment in this weak economy. The WILL Act would support library efforts that provide job search support in communities all across America.

Additionally, the bill recognizes public libraries as allowable "One-Stop" partners and authorizes new demonstration and pilot projects to establish employment resources in public libraries. This will allow library users access to workforce activities and information related to training services and employment opportunities, including but not limited to resume development, job bank web searches, literacy services, and workshops on career information.

## **Open Access: FASTR is the New FRPAA**

In February, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR) was introduced in both the House and Senate. Essentially, the legislation would advance and expand the National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy which requires public access to taxpayer-funded research to an additional 11 agencies. While this legislation has a new name, the language of the bill is almost identical to that of Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA) that was introduced in the last congress.

In February, John Holdren, director of the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, released a Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies. The memo, "Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research," is the Obama Administration's response to last year's *We the People* petition that asked for a requirement for scholars and researchers to provide "free access over the Internet to scientific journal articles arising from taxpayer-funded research."

The memo demonstrated that the Obama administration has a good grasp on the needs of the public, going beyond what FASTR would mandate to include data as well as published research. The memo states that "to achieve the Administration's commitment to increase access to federally funded, published research and digital scientific data, Federal agencies investing in research and development must have clear and coordinated policies for increasing such access". Unlike with FASTR, these new policies must be completed within six months.

## **OGR Launches E-Government Website and Hosts Free Webinar for Public Librarians**

To assist libraries in providing e-government services to patrons, OGR hosted host no-cost webinar "Libraries & E-government" on April 12, 2013. As part of the webinar, participants learned how to use [www.libegov.org](http://www.libegov.org), an easy-to-use web tool that helps libraries serve the e-government needs of their communities. The free webinar was so popular that it sold out of space just two days after OGR publicly announced the webinar.

The website provides librarians with descriptions of online resources available from government agencies and non-governmental organizations that deal with issues, such as immigration and

taxation. Additionally, the website offers a virtual Ask A Librarian feature through Government Information Online service. The website is the result of an Institute of Museum and Library Services funded national leadership grant and was developed by the Information Policy & Access Center at the University of Maryland and the American Library Association through, and is intended to foster collaboration between libraries and government agencies, as well as offer guidance on the provision of e-government services and roles to assist libraries as they continue to serve as critical community providers of e-government to a range of populations.

### **ALA President, Secretary Hillary Clinton Sign “Declaration of Learning**

President Maureen Sullivan joined Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, along with twelve government agencies and organizations, to sign the “Declaration of Learning,” a statement that formally announces their partnership as members of the Inter-Agency Collaboration on Learning. Signed on the Treaty of Paris Desk at the Department of State Headquarters, the declaration recognizes participating institutions for their commitment to use historic artifacts in their collections to create digital learning tools for students and educators.

### **OGR Hosts Free Webinar for Public Librarians on E-Government Website**

To assist libraries in providing e-government services to patrons, OGR hosted several free webinars to teach librarians how to use [www.libegov.org](http://www.libegov.org), an easy-to-use web tool that helps libraries serve the e-government needs of their communities. Webinars were held on April 12, 2013 and May 30, 2013. The web tool will officially launch at the 2013 Annual ALA Conference.

The website provides librarians with descriptions of online resources available from government agencies and non-governmental organizations that deal with issues, such as immigration and taxation. Additionally, the website offers a virtual Ask A Librarian feature through Government Information Online service. The website is the result of an Institute of Museum and Library Services funded national leadership grant and was developed by the Information Policy & Access Center at the University of Maryland and the American Library Association through, and is intended to foster collaboration between libraries and government agencies, as well as offer guidance on the provision of e-government services and roles to assist libraries as they continue to serve as critical community providers of e-government to a range of populations.

### **ALA Offices Team Up for Immigration Webinar**

In May, REFORMA, the ALA Washington Office, the ALA Office for Diversity and the ALA Office for Advocacy discussed immigration issues during the free the webinar “Taking Action: Legal Barriers to Library Services to Immigrants & Access to Information.” As part of the webinar, participants heard recommendations from REFORMA members who supported immigrants despite difficult situations. REFORMA members shared resources that help librarians advocate for services for immigrants and multi-ethnic populations. Emily Sheketoff, executive director of the ALA Washington Office, participated in the webinar.

## **OGR Offers Free Advocacy Webinars**

The Office of Government Relations hosted the webinar “The Fiscal Cliff, the 113th Congress and You – How Today’s Economic Uncertainty Might Impact the Library Community” in early January. The webinar prepared library advocates for the new 113<sup>th</sup> Congress and an update on the sequestration situation. The webinar also focused on the policy issues most likely to be considered in 2013.