



Association of Research Libraries
Association of American Libraries,
Special Libraries Association
American Association of Law Libraries

May 25, 2004

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Legislative
Committee on Appropriations
H-147 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 2055-6025

Dear Mr. Chairman,

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the American Library Association (ALA), the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and the Special Libraries Association (SLA) in support of the fiscal year 2005 budget request for the Library of Congress.

The Library of Congress FY 2005 request of \$602.3 million will allow the Library to fund ongoing operational activities while at the same time, support a number of key activities of interest to the library community and the Nation. Importantly, several of these initiatives focus on enhancing preservation of and access to the Library's collections. These projects include the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center (NAVCC), the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP), and funds to support reclassifying volumes in the Law Library and deacidification initiatives.

The NAVCC in Culpeper, Virginia will serve as the central storage and conservation facility for the Library's audiovisual collections and will also be home to specialized preservation laboratories for audiovisual media. This facility will provide sufficient capacities and capabilities for the Library to store, preserve and provide access to its collections of moving images and recorded sound for well over the next 25 years. ALA, AALL, ARL, and SLA support the Library's request of an additional \$5.28 million for collections relocation, digital preservation activities and more relating to the NAVCC.

To preserve our past, libraries have established collaborative programs to protect millions of books and other materials, much of which is becoming unreadable due to the acidic paper on which they are printed. This is a national crisis and our response much be sustained over many years. Our organizations thank the Congress for your previous support of the Library's deacidification efforts. This process, one of many

employed by the library community to tackle this critical problem, extends the life of brittle books significantly, permitting their use for at least another 300-800 years. As in years past, the library associations fully support the Library's deacidification efforts and its request for an increase of \$948,000, part of a five year effort to deacidify one million books and five million manuscripts between 2001- 2005.

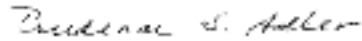
The library associations support the mission of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) to develop a national strategy to collect, archive, catalog, and preserve the rapidly increasing amount of digital content for current and future generations, especially materials that are created only in digital formats. Libraries throughout the United States are investing in comparable initiatives, thus cooperation among institutions will be fundamental to the success of these endeavors. SLA, ALA, ARL, and AALL support the request to extend by five years, the securing of commitments by other organizations and entities to partner in the NDIIPP.

All libraries face tighter and tighter budgets with limitations on how to best deploy scarce resources. In part, the rising cost of journal subscriptions continues to hamper the ability of libraries' to keep pace with acquiring needed resources. Serial costs have increased more than 200% over the last seventeen years. In 1986, the average cost of a serial subscription was \$89.77 and it increased to \$283 by 2003. Similarly costs for books increased from an average of \$28 to \$52 during the same timeframe. AALL, ARL, ALA and SLA support the request for increases to the Law Library, the National Library and CRS acquisitions budgets to address the inflationary increases in research resources. In addition, our organizations support the request for \$445,000 for the Library to begin to reclassify 800,000 volumes in the Law Library. Without such reclassification, many foreign legal documents will not be accessible.

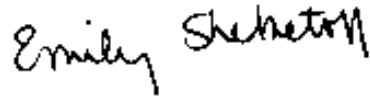
The Library created the National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) in 1996 to preserve American films, such as documentaries, silent-era films, avant-garde works, ethnic films, newsreels, home movies and independent works. In addition to protecting films from disintegration, NFPF organizes, obtains funding, and manages collaborative projects that enable film archives to work together on national preservation initiatives. These are important activities and merit Congress' full support.

Funding to assist the Library in its long-term preservation and access initiatives is critical to ensuring that the American public benefits from our Nation's cultural resources as well as from the Library's global resources. ARL, ALA, AALL, and SLA look forward to working with members of the Subcommittee on Legislative and very much appreciate the Subcommittee's continued support for the Library of Congress and its programs.

Sincerely,



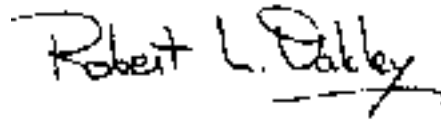
Prudence S. Adler
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The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is a nonprofit educational organization with over 5,000 members nationwide. AALL's mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to the legal and public communities, to foster the profession of law librarianship, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information and information policy.

The American Library Association (ALA) is a nonprofit educational organization of over 65,000 librarians, library trustees, and other friends of libraries dedicated to improving library services and promoting the public interest in a free and open information society.

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is a nonprofit organization of 123 research libraries in North America. ARL's members include university libraries, public libraries, government and national libraries. Its mission is to shape and influence forces affecting the future of research libraries in the process of scholarly communication. ARL programs and services promote equitable access to and effective uses of recorded knowledge in support of teaching, research, scholarship and community service.

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a nonprofit, educational organization serving more than 13,000 members of the information profession, including special librarians, information managers, brokers, and consultants.