

August 22, 2006

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
H-218 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis:

We wrote to you in March on behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), the American Library Association (ALA), the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Special Libraries Association (SLA) and the Medical Library Association (MLA), asking the Committee on Appropriations to support the full FY 2007 appropriations request for the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). GPO's request of \$151.5 million included \$43 million for the Salaries and Expenses (S&E) that funds the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). Collectively, our associations represent thousands of individuals and institutions serving communities throughout the Nation, including the more than 1200 federal depository libraries located in nearly every congressional district that provide your constituents with access to government information.

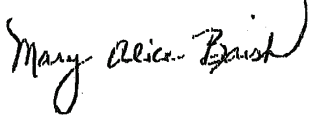
In passing the *Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for FY 2007* (H.R. 5521), the House of Representatives approved a total of \$130.5 million for GPO, including \$35.3 million for the S&E. The Senate has now reported its version of H.R. 5521 and approved a total FY 2007 budget for GPO of \$140.3 million, including \$40 million for the S&E. We believe that this higher level of funding is necessary for GPO to maintain its important print distribution program as it continues to invest in many digital initiatives that will benefit depository libraries and the public as we move into the 21st Century. We urge you to agree to the Senate mark when you meet in conference after the August recess.

We are pleased that both the House and the Senate bills provide the necessary funding for the production of the 2006 print *U.S. Code* and its distribution to depository libraries. The *U.S. Code* is a core document of democracy. In fact, 1036 of the 1243 federal depository libraries receive it in the official, authentic print format so it is easily accessible to your constituents through their local depository library. We thank you and your colleagues for funding the production and distribution of the 2006 print *U.S. Code*. The Senate bill provides the requested S&E funding for mandatory pay and price level increases. It also includes necessary funding to build the technology infrastructure to support the life-cycle of electronic government information. We believe this higher level of funding is absolutely crucial for GPO's Future Digital System (FDsys); for training and user support; for the conversion of cataloging records; for the cataloging of web-harvested documents; and for the authentication of web-harvested and digitized documents.

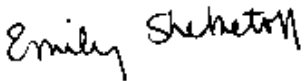
As always, we are grateful to you and your colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations for your support for GPO and the Federal Depository Library Program. We are confident that you agree with us that Congress must adequately fund GPO as it moves into the 21st Century. We respectfully urge you to

agree to the Senate mark for H.R. 5521 and approve \$140.3 million for GPO in FY 2007, including \$40 million for the Federal Depository Library Program, when the conference committee convenes. The investment in systems and services to provide the public with government publications in all formats will ensure that valuable electronic government information created today will be available and preserved for future generations. Thank you very much.

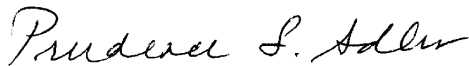
Sincerely,



Mary Alice Baish
American Association of Law Libraries



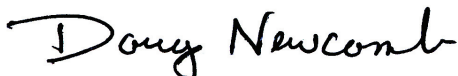
Emily Sheketoff
American Library Association



Prudence S. Adler
Association of Research Libraries

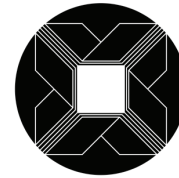


Carla Funk
Medical Library Association



Douglas Newcomb
Special Libraries Association

cc: The Honorable David Obey
The Honorable Vernon J. Ehlers
The Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald



American Association of Law Libraries

With over 5,000 members, the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) represents law librarians and related professionals who are affiliated with and serve the nearly one million men and women working in the range of U.S. legal institutions: law firms; law schools; corporate legal departments; courts; and local, state and federal government agencies. The association was founded in 1906 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.

Contact: Mary Alice Baish (202-662-9200)

American Library Association

The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with more than 65,000 members. Its mission is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

Contact: Melanie Anderson (202-628-8410)

Association of Research Libraries

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is an association of over 120 of the largest research libraries in North America. The member institutions serve over 160,000 faculty researchers and scholars and more than 4 million students in the U.S. and Canada. ARL's mission is to influence the changing environment of scholarly communication and the public policies that affect research libraries and the communities they serve. ARL pursues this mission by advancing the goals of its member research libraries, providing leadership in public and information policy to the scholarly and higher education communities, fostering the exchange of ideas and expertise, and shaping a future environment that leverages its interests with those of allied organizations.

Contact: Prudence Adler (202-296-2296)

Medical Library Association

MLA is a nonprofit, educational organization with more than 4,500 health sciences information professional members worldwide. Founded in 1898, MLA provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledge base of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public.

Contact: Carla Funk (312-419-9094 x.14)

The Special Libraries Association

SLA is a nonprofit global organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves more than 12,000 members in 83 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy and networking initiatives.

Contact: Doug Newcomb (703-647-4923)