



American Association of Law Libraries
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IN THIS ISSUE

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Webinar: Come One, Come All! Your Help Needed to Populate the National Inventory of Primary Legal Materials](#)
- [Action Alert: Your Help Needed On Three “Must-Pass” Bills](#)

UPDATES FROM THE HILL AND THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE

- [Members of Congress Speak Out in Support of Net Neutrality](#)
- [House Oversight Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Public Access to Federally-Funded Research](#)
- [Copyright Committee Posts New Issue Briefs on Google Book Settlement and DMCA Exemptions](#)

OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY: CHAPTER NEWS

- [GRC Liaisons Connect Chapters and SISs with AALL’s Advocacy Team](#)

FREE TIME WELL SPENT: Further Reading for the Information Policy Junkie

- [Law Library of Congress Digitizes Piracy Collections](#)
- [New CRS Report Examines Role of the Director of National Intelligence](#)
- [Government Accountability Office Report Highlights Need to Address Cyber Threats](#)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Webinar: Come One, Come All! Your Help Needed to Populate the National Inventory of Primary Legal Materials

On Wednesday, October 6, AALL will host a free online training session from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. CDT for all State Working Group [volunteers](#) and others interested in contributing to the National Inventory of Primary Legal Materials. Whether you've already begun to populate your inventory or are just getting started, this training session will give you the tools and confidence you need to populate your state's legal inventory. Members of AALL and our chapters who are not yet involved are especially encouraged to participate.

You'll come away from this session with a greater understanding of how the National Inventory of Primary Legal Materials promotes AALL's Government Relations Policy and Association. You will also learn tips to get your working group started and understand the process of creating the spreadsheet for your state and using the online form to automatically populate your inventory. Speakers include Kentucky State Working Group coordinator **Emily Janoski-Haehlen**, Maryland State Working Group coordinator **Joan Bellistri** and Indiana State Working Group coordinator **Sarah Glassmeyer**.

This training will leave you energized and ready to contribute to this ambitious project. [Please register today!](#)

Action Alert: Your Help Needed On Three "Must-Pass" Bills

As President Joyce Janto announced in her August [e-newsletter](#), AALL needs your help in support of three important bills that protect government whistleblowers and promote improved access to government information. Our [action alert](#) provides talking points and sample messages to make taking action easy. Please take a moment now to contact your elected officials while they are home until September 10 for the August recess. Here are the key issues, and thanks in advance for your help!

1. ***Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act (S. 372)***: Ask your Senators to urge Senate leaders to schedule a full Senate vote on S. 372, which ensures new much-needed protections for government employees and contractors who blow the whistle on waste, fraud or abuse. President Obama has expressed strong support for this bill, which would add protections such as jury trials, and close loopholes in the current laws. We're very close to getting it enacted after a ten-year effort.
2. ***Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (H.R. 6026)***: Urge your Representatives to co-sponsor [H.R. 6026](#), which directs the Office of Management and Budget to create a free searchable Web site to provide public access to congressionally mandated reports. These important resources are rarely made available to the public.
3. ***H.R.6086 and S. 3717 to repeal a FOIA exemption for the Securities and Exchange Commission in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer***

Protection Act: Urge your Representatives and Senators to co-sponsor [H.R. 6086](#) and [S. 3717](#). Both bills are necessary to repeal a recently enacted new exemption for the Securities and Exchange Commission from the FOIA.

“All politics is local,” and we really need *your* help to get these bills passed before the 111th Congress adjourns at the end of the year.

UPDATES FROM THE HILL AND THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE

Members of Congress Speak Out in Support of Net Neutrality

This summer, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) held regular meetings with stakeholders, including the [Open Internet Coalition](#), of which AALL is a member, and industry groups to discuss how the FCC should proceed on net neutrality. Unfortunately, in August the FCC suspended these talks after rumors surfaced that Google and Verizon had reached a private deal on regulating Internet traffic.

What Google and Verizon produced was not so much a deal but a set of [recommendations](#) to the FCC on how the agency should proceed on net neutrality. The proposal was met with backlash from many public interest groups and several high-profile members of Congress who argue that it is the FCC’s responsibility to determine how to ensure net neutrality.

AALL supports FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski’s recent [proposal](#) to allow the FCC to regulate the transmission component of Internet access. This approach, referred to as the “third way,” would ensure that the FCC continues to promote a free and open Internet while protecting users from discrimination and limiting the regulatory burden placed on broadband access providers with strict regulations.

Sen. John Kerry (D-MA), who during the 110th Congress co-sponsored net neutrality [legislation](#) that AALL strongly supported, urged Chairman Genachowski to move forward with his plan, [stating](#) that, “Congressional stalemate is making a legislative solution look increasingly unlikely in the near term.”

Representative Edward Markey (D-MA-7), Anna Eshoo (D-CA-14), Mike Doyle (D-PA-14) and Jay Inslee (D-WA-1), all of whom are members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet, sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Genachowski on August 16 opposing the Google-Verizon proposal and urging the Chairman to pursue his plan. Rep. Markey, Rep. Eshoo and Rep. Inslee are co-sponsors of the *Internet Freedom Preservation Act of 2009* ([H.R. 3458](#)), which would ensure net neutrality.

In addition, on August 19, Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) spoke at a [hearing](#) with FCC Commissioners Mignon Clyburn and Michael Copps in Minneapolis. Sen. Franken said of the threat to net neutrality: “We don’t just have a competition problem, we have a First Amendment problem.”

AALL supports net neutrality because law librarians are providers, creators and users of digital information, and it is the responsibility of law libraries to ensure that everyone has equal access

to the information they need. In addition, if telecommunications companies are allowed to create a tiered system, law libraries may not be able to pay the fees for preferred access. For more information, please read our [Issue Brief](#).

House Oversight Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Public Access to Federally-Funded Research

On July 29, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives held an important hearing on access to Federally-funded research with 11 witnesses representing all sides of the debate.

The most compelling testimony came from [Dr. David Lipman](#), director of the PubMed Central database, the online digital library maintained by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The mandatory NIH Public Access Policy requires the submission of published articles resulting from NIH-funded research to PubMed Central. These articles are made publicly available for free on PubMed Central within 12 months of the publication date.

Dr. Lipman reported some remarkable figures that demonstrate the importance of public access. For example, between March 2008 and March 2010, the monthly number of articles retrieved from PubMed central doubled from 10 million to 20 million. In addition, more than 420,000 users access PubMed Central each day, showing the wide interest in these articles.

[Allan Adler](#), Vice President of Government and Legal Affairs at the Association of American Publishers (AAP), expressed the AAP's opposition to open access. The AAP believes that public access policies are unnecessary and would lead to massive subscription cancellations. However, Mr. Adler failed to provide Chairman Clay (D-MO-1) with data the Chairman had requested on how publishers have been negatively affected by current policies.

AALL strongly supports the *Federal Research Public Access Act of 2009* ([S. 1373](#) and [H.R. 5037](#)), which would ensure free, timely, online access to the published results of Federally-funded research by 11 Federal agencies that fund over \$100 million in annual external research.

Copyright Committee Posts New Issue Briefs on Google Books Settlement and DMCA Exemptions

The Copyright Committee recently released two new issue briefs that are now available on AALLNET. The first, on the [Google Book Settlement](#), tracks the progress of the case against Google and outlines the issues raised by the proposed settlement that affect the law library community, including antitrust, privacy, intellectual freedom and copyright.

The second, on [Exemptions to DMCA § 1201 Circumvention of Copyright Protection Systems](#), analyzes the new exemptions recently [issued](#) by the Librarian of Congress. One of the new exemptions greatly expands permissible uses of short clips from DVDs. It responds to the request made by Roger Skalbeck, chair of our Copyright Committee, during his [testimony](#) before the Copyright Office in May 2009 on behalf of AALL, the Medical Library Association and the Special Libraries Association. The new exemption expands the 2006 exemption that allowed

film and media studies faculty in colleges and universities to circumvent DVD control technology for the purpose of making short clips for educational use in their classroom to include *all* college or university professors, irrespective of discipline. We expect that this new exemption will be welcomed by law school faculty. If you're in academia, please be sure to read the issue brief and share it with your faculty.

OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY: CHAPTER NEWS

Liaisons Connect Chapters and SISs with the Government Relations Committee and Government Relations Office

The Government Relations Committee works closely with AALL's chapters and SISs to keep them connected with our advocacy efforts at the federal and state levels. GRC members serve as [liaisons](#) to chapters and SISs and communicate with them regularly.

Each month, GRC liaisons check in with chapter leaders to find out if a chapter has any public-policy related news to report. This could include state bills the chapter is tracking or events the chapter GRC is planning. If so, we would like to highlight it here in the E-Bulletin. We also encourage chapter members to share policy-related news or updates with colleagues through the [Advocacy Listserv](#).

For tips on how you, your chapter and SIS colleagues can become more involved in AALL's advocacy efforts, please see the [AALL Advocacy Toolkit](#). Chapter 4 of the Toolkit is geared toward chapters who want to start a chapter Government Relations Committee or help their existing committee become more active.

FREE TIME WELL SPENT: Further Reading for the Information Policy Junkie

Law Library of Congress Digitizes Piracy Collections

The Law Library of Congress, as part of its effort to provide you with more information online, has [digitized](#) its collection of more than fifty books of pre-1923 piracy trials. The collection offers a fascinating look at how nations around the world handled piracy issues as far back as the 1600s. It's a fun collection to browse and offers access to some wonderful materials.

New CRS Report Examines Role of the Director of National Intelligence

This [CRS report](#) analyzes the evolving role of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), a position established by the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004* (P.L. 108-458). The position has been controversial since it was established 6 years ago to provide greater centralization and cooperation among intelligence units across the Federal government. None of its three directors has remained in the job for more than 2 years.

Steve Aftergood at [Secrecy News](#) has been tracking the confirmation hearing of General James R. Clapper, Jr., nominated by President Obama to serve as the next DNI. The confirmation hearings give some insight into General Clapper's intention to fix the classification system and make the process more open. General Clapper has already committed to releasing to the public the size of the annual budget for the Military Intelligence Program, which has previously been classified.

Government Accountability Office Report Highlights Need to Address Cyber Threats

A new Government Accountability Office [report](#) highlights the urgent need to address the threat of computer-based attacks on critical infrastructure. The report assesses the current risks to systems and operations and recommends that the national Cybersecurity Coordinator and the Department of Homeland Security work with their federal and private sector partners to improve information sharing.

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