



April 13, 2007

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
Chair, Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Landrieu,

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), the National Humanities Alliance (NHA), and the American Library Association (ALA) in support of the fiscal year 2008 budget request of \$703.339 million (\$661.616 million in appropriations and \$41.723 million in authority to use receipts) for the Library of Congress (LC).

As in previous years, the funding request for FY 2008 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. This letter addresses four of these key activities: Preservation & Access, Collections & Services, Outreach & Public Programs, and Scholarly Research.

Preservation & Access

ARL, CLIR, NHA and ALA 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. ARL, CLIR, NHA and ALA strongly support the request to restore \$21.5 million in support of NDIIPP activities.

The **National Audio-Visual Conservation Center (NAVCC)** in Culpepper, 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. The FY 2008 funding request for this project is \$13.617 million. 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. ARL, CLIR, NHA and ALA support the Library's FY 2008 request of \$13.617 million for operational activities and the purchase of needed equipment.

The Library is also requesting \$1 million in an **effort to digitize** 70 million pages of pre-1978 copyright records. These records are the only source of documentation of the ownership and copyright status of millions of copyrighted works. Today, members of the public must travel to the Library to determine a work's status or hire a local attorney to perform the search. Once these records are digitized, they will be available in a publicly available database that will vastly improve public access to these important records. Until this occurs, libraries and other institutions are stymied from digitizing parts of their collections given the uncertainty of term and ownership. The library community strongly supports this initiative and the FY 2008 funding will permit the scanning of 10 million page images.

Collections & Services

The Library of Congress is the largest and most comprehensive legislative and national library in the world. Area specialists and reference librarians provide critical reference services to users of the library by phone, Internet, and on-site assistance. The Humanities and Social Sciences Division provides valuable support for hundreds of scholars each year through regular seminars and orientation sessions for researchers. The Area Studies Divisions (including the African and Middle Eastern, Asian, European, and Hispanic divisions) as well as the Science, Technology and Business Division, employ expert staff to identify new acquisitions, respond to research requests, and develop finding aids for the collections. Special Collections and Services staff provide collection development and reference services, as well as bibliographic access for a broad array of holdings, including: manuscripts, rare books, prints, photographs, sound recordings, moving images, maps and atlases. Digital and Internet-based finding aids, exhibits, and classroom curricula increasingly enhance access to the Library's collections.

The Library recently established the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control. The Working Group will examine bibliographic description in the 21st century and includes members of the public and private sectors. The library community appreciates the important work of this Working Group and the need for the Library of Congress to seek input from and close collaboration with the library community.

Outreach & Public Programs

The Library of Congress hosts a broad array of activities that promote appreciation for books and reading, and provide broad access to the Library's collections to scholars, educators and the general public. Examples of notable outreach programs include the **Center for the Book**, the **American Folklife Center** and the **National Book Festival**.

The **Center for the Book** leverages the prestige and resources of the Library of Congress to stimulate public interest in books, reading, libraries and literacy and to encourage the study of books and the printed word. While the majority of the Center's activities are supported by contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, the Library provides critical support for the Center's full-time staff positions. The Center develops national reading promotion themes and campaigns that are disseminated through a broad network of state affiliates, educational and civic organizations. Located in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, the Center's state affiliates work with the Library to promote national reading campaigns as well as the unique literary and

intellectual heritage of each state. State centers for the book, which host a growing number of programs based on national and local themes, are based at a variety of institutions, including public libraries, universities and state humanities councils.

The **American Folklife Center** was created in 1976 by Congress to "preserve and present" the heritage of American folklife through programs of research, documentation, archival preservation, reference service, live performance, exhibition, publication, and training. The Folklife Center includes the Archive of Folk Culture, which is now one of the largest collections of ethnographic material from the United States and around the world. With a growing number of finding aids in print and on-line, lesson plans, classroom resources, and online collections, the Folklife Center is an important resource for teachers, scholars, and students across the country. Each year, the Center makes modest financial awards to scholars interested in working with ethnographic collection materials at the Library of Congress and for those individuals conducting fieldwork on topics related to the aims and scope of folklife research. The **Veterans History Project**, a multi-year effort to collect and archive the personal recollections of U.S. wartime veterans and home front civilians, was launched by the Folklife Center in 2000. The project represents the largest collection of its kind and is an important resource for participants, researchers, students of history and writers.

Organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress, the National Book Festival brings award-winning and nationally known authors, illustrators and poets to the National Mall each year to promote and celebrate reading. Approximately 100,000 people gathered on the National Mall to celebrate the 2006 Festival. The Festival provides a vital national spotlight on the importance of literature and culture in our Nation's intellectual life.

Scholarly Research

Through the **Office of Scholarly Programs and the Kluge Center**, the Library of Congress supports scholars' use of the Library's holdings, including the law library, outstanding multi-lingual collections of books and periodicals, and special collections of manuscripts, maps, music, films, recorded sound, prints and photographs. A residential program, the John W. Kluge Center brings together senior scholars and postdoctoral fellows in Washington to use the Library's collections, and interact with lawmakers and the public through special events and seminars. Established in 2003 by an endowment gift, the **Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Human Sciences** is of a size equal to the Nobel prize awards. It rewards a life of scholarship in a wide range of disciplines not covered by the Nobel, including history, philosophy, politics, anthropology, sociology, religion, criticism in the arts and humanities, and linguistics.

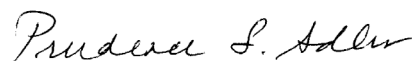
Working in partnership with private organizations and foundations, the Library supports a wide variety of fellowship competitions each year. During FY 2005, the Library managed the activities of 20 funds, for a total expenditure of nearly \$3.5 million. Examples of 2006/2007 competitions include:

- The **J. Franklin Jameson Fellowship in American History**, co-sponsored by the American Historical Association, to support significant research in the Library's collections by scholars at an early stage in their careers in history.

- The **Kislak Fellowship in American Studies**, for post-doctoral scholars to conduct advanced research using the Kislak Collection's rare books, manuscripts, historic documents, maps and art of the Americas, containing some of the earliest records of indigenous peoples of North America.
- The **Paul Peck Humanities Institute Internship Program**, designed for undergraduate and graduate high achievers in the humanities who are interested in projects about their cultural heritage.

Funding for Library Services within the Library of Congress is essential to ensuring continued development of and broad public access to the National Library's vast collections. Users include librarians, scholars, educators, students, parents, and Americans from all walks of life. Congress' support for the Library's preservation and access efforts, collections, public outreach and scholarly research programs ensures the American public benefits from our Nation's cultural resources and the Library's global resources. We look forward to working with members of the Appropriations Committee, and very much appreciate the Committee's continued support for the Library of Congress and its programs.

Sincerely,



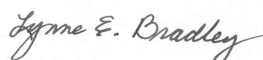
Prudence S. Adler
Associate Executive Director
Association of Research Libraries



Charles Henry
President
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Jessica Jones Irons
Executive Director
National Humanities Alliance



Lynne Bradley
Director, Office of Government Relations
American Library Association

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. ARL pursues its 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.

The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) is an independent, not-for-profit organization working to maintain and improve access to information for generations to come. In partnership with other organizations, CLIR helps create services that expand the concept of "library" and supports the providers and preservers of information. CLIR is supported by fees from sponsoring institutions, grants from public and private foundations, contracts with federal agencies and contributions from individuals.

***The National Humanities Alliance** is a coalition of nearly ninety leading nonprofit organizations dedicated to the advancement of education, research, preservation, and public programs in national and federal humanities policy. Its members include: scholarly and professional associations; higher education associations; organizations of museums, libraries, historical societies and state humanities councils; university-based and independent humanities research centers.*

***The American Library Association** is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with more than 64,000 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.*