KEY FEDERAL LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES
For Florida Libraries
May 5 & 6, 2014

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) – Floridians benefit from LSTA funding through statewide services and grants to local libraries. For many communities and schools LSTA provides the only access to essential licensed electronic resources. LSTA, the only federal funding program exclusively for libraries, is administered nationally by the Institute for Museum and Library Service (IMLS) and in Florida by the State Library and Archives of Florida, Florida Department of State.

Florida received $7,967,170 in 2014, a reduction of 11% since FY 2010 ($8,976,669). We join the American Library Association in requesting level funding at $180.9 million for FY 2015.

LSTA helps provide Floridians with:
- Florida Electronic Library’s licensed information products
- Technology training
- Early reading programs
- Literacy programs
- Statewide youth program
- E-Government training
- Digitizing local cultural resources
- Resource sharing
- Continuing education & training for library staff
- Outreach to persons with special needs who would otherwise go unserved.

Support the E-Rate Program – The E-Rate makes a huge difference for Florida schools’ and libraries’ efforts to provide access to the Internet. Florida schools and libraries received $119,642 in 2012 (the last year for which the most complete funding information is available) E-Rate discounts. We strongly support the "Modernizing the E-Rate" proposal currently being considered by the FCC.

Net Neutrality – Libraries are very dependent on the open Internet for receiving and providing content, applications, and services as are schools, colleges and universities. We encourage Congress to adopt legislation to restore net neutrality.

Support Open Access - Oppose Section 303 of Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science, and Technology Act (FIRST) – We ask that Congress ensure that the public has free access to the published results of taxpayer funded scholarly research. Section 303 of FIRST creates
unnecessary challenges to federal agencies as they endeavor to follow the White House Directive on Public Access to the Results of Federally Funded Research and delays progress made in the FY14 Omnibus Appropriations Act to expand the NIH access program to include the Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services. We strongly support the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR - HR 7088 and S 350) which would strengthen the provisions of the Omnibus Act.

**Public Libraries Need Access to Popular Ebooks** – Ebooks are incredibly popular in libraries! Though not an issue requiring Congressional action, the library community wants Congress to understand that libraries are having difficulty serving our communities, providing access to literature, and supporting education. Libraries need publishers to sell - not license us ebooks at fair prices with fair terms.

**Copyright** – Currently we are not taking positions on any specific copyright legislation but we strongly support the rights provided Americans and libraries by U.S. Copyright Law’s fair use exemption. Fair use is essential to ensure the exchange of copyrighted information.

**Library of Congress, Government Printing Office, & National Archives and Records Administration** – We ask the President and Congress for full funding for these important programs.

**Privacy** – We are committed to protecting American’s privacy including protections for privacy of private communications. Therefore we support the USA Freedom Act (H.R. 3361 / S. 1599. This legislation would end bulk collection of telephone and Internet metadata and permit companies to report publicly on the number of FISA orders and National Security Letters they have received and complied with and the numbers of users or accounts whose information is sought.

**Support National Historical Publications and Records Commission Grants (NHPRC)** – These grants benefit Florida’s archives and historical groups, enabling them to preserve and publish historical records that document American and Florida history, and make historical materials more accessible.

**Support Underserved School Libraries – Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)** - IAL includes competitive grants for underserved school libraries. We ask the President and the U.S. Congress for level funding of the program at $25 million for FY 2015.

Additional information about these issues is available from the American Library Association at - [http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/federallegislation](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/federallegislation)

**Thank You for Your Consideration & Support for Our Nation’s Libraries!**