

At the NDLA Annual Conference I spoke with **ALA** Manager for Membership Services **John Chrastka** about the possibility of a developing an ALA news medium with a focus on chapters, i.e. NDLA members. I haven't seen anything yet but it could take a year to come to fruition. I read ALA Council listservs regularly and will soon be preparing to attend ALA Midwinter

Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director, American Library Association Washington Office has been notifying Council via the listserv of a number of letters being sent to address library-related issues before Congress.*

- The American Library Association (ALA) opposes the closing of the Sandia National Laboratory's physical library and the dispersal of its print collection
- ALA submitted comments regarding the importance of preventing bullying and harassment in the nation's schools.
- ALA expressed opposition to the non-disclosure provisions (Sec. 10305 of the Livestock Title) in the 2007 Farm Bill approved by the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee on October 25, 2007. This language would create an unnecessary bar to public disclosure and use or publication of information related to the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). This secrecy provision is not in the House-passed bill and should be removed from the Senate bill.
- The American Library Association (ALA) and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) (hereafter known as "the Libraries") submitted this statement for the record to the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing titled "FISA [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act] Amendments: How to Protect Americans' Security and Privacy and Preserve the Rule of Law and Government Accountability" on October 31, 2007. ... The Libraries seek language in FISA modernization proposals that ensures judicial review of law enforcement requests for library patron records or surveillance of library users through library networks. The Libraries strongly believe that when the government seeks foreign intelligence information from libraries in the United States, it should do so only on an order authorized by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC), regardless of whether the person using the library services is a U.S. citizen or not, or located within the United States or abroad.
- ALA with other organizations wrote to applaud this Committee's leadership toward product safety reform by including whistleblower protection as a primary law enforcement safeguard in S. 2045, the (Consumer Product Safety Commission) CPSC Reform Act of 2007. This is vitally needed legislation to protect America's families, and whistleblower protection is a necessary cornerstone for the promise of reform to be realized most effectively. The Committee's provision, perfected by the McCaskill amendment, reflects the best practices for this right, adopted from recent legislation enacted by this Congress.
- On behalf of the 67,000 members of the American Library Association (ALA), I request that you include \$171,500,000 for the Grants to State Library Agencies program within the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) in the fiscal year 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

*Text excerpted from the letters.

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