

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) 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. AALL's Public Policy Priorities further the association's commitment to advocating for no-fee permanent public access to legal and government information and the essential role law librarians play in supporting access to legal information.

ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

The federal government has a responsibility to ensure that legal and government information is trustworthy, complete, and preserved for permanent public access. AALL supports:

- Policies that promote government's responsibility to manage the life cycle of online information, including the application of robust finding tools, version control, authentication, and the development of meaningful metadata
- Increased access to information on government websites, including federal court information available through PACER
- Adequate funding for the Government Publishing Office, the Library of Congress, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Archives and Records Administration

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Access to justice is essential in a society based on the rule of law. As the demand for legal services grows, law libraries are contributing to the effective functioning of the justice system by providing access to legal information and increasing understanding of the legal process. AALL Supports:

- Adequate funding for the Legal Services Corporation, which funds and promotes programs that provide access to legal resources and legal aid

BALANCE IN COPYRIGHT LAW BETWEEN RIGHTS HOLDERS AND USERS

An equitable balance between rights of information users and rights of copyright owners and licensors ensures the free flow of information and the advancement and creation of knowledge. AALL supports:

- Protection and promotion of the fair use exception for libraries in Title 17
- A strong first sale doctrine so libraries may continue to acquire and lend books and other materials
- Policies that enable digitization and greater access to knowledge, including an equitable solution to the orphan works problem



COMMITMENT TO OPENNESS

A transparent and open government promotes understanding of and trust in government. AALL supports:

- Classification policies that allow the release of as much information as possible while protecting necessary secrets
- Policies that ensure net neutrality, under which all content, sites, and platforms are treated equally
- Improvements to the Freedom of Information Act that ensures that openness prevails, regardless of administration, presidential signing statements, or forms of executive privilege

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

The federal government has a responsibility to protect the privacy of library users, including confidentiality of library circulation and research records. AALL supports:

- Reforms to surveillance laws, including the *USA PATRIOT Act* and the *Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act*, that limit the overbroad collection of personal information about members of the public
- Strong oversight and transparency of government surveillance programs that monitor public communications
- Updates to laws that protect individuals' privacy, including the privacy of electronic communications and data