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## **Take Action Now**

### **Co-sponsors Needed for New Boucher Fair Use Bill**

AALL strongly supports the introduction of The Freedom and Innovation Revitalizing U.S. Entrepreneurship (FAIR USE) Act of 2007, [H.R. 1201](#). Introduced on February 27<sup>th</sup>, the FAIR USE Act is cosponsored by Congressman [Rick Boucher](#) (D-VA-9), [John Doolittle](#) (R-CA-4) and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-16). The FAIR USE Act makes permanent the six exemptions from the prohibition on circumvention of technological measures contained in section 1201 of the [Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#) (DMCA) that were approved by the Librarian of Congress at the end of 2006. Otherwise these exemptions will sunset in three years. Another important provision is that it would permit a library to circumvent technological provisions for the purpose of preservation of works in a library's collection. The legislation contains several improvements to the Digital Media Consumer's Rights Act, similar legislation which the lawmakers introduced in the 108<sup>th</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup> Congresses.

As noted by Mr. Boucher in the February 27 press release:

*"The fair use doctrine is threatened today as never before. Historically, the nation's copyright laws have reflected a carefully calibrated balance between the rights of copyright owners and the rights of the users of copyrighted material. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act dramatically tilted the copyright balance toward complete copyright protection at the expense of the public's right to fair use,"... "The FAIR USE Act will assure that consumers who purchase digital media can enjoy a broad range of uses of the media for their own convenience in a way which does not infringe the copyright in the work,".*

Co-sponsors are needed. Please contact your representative, especially if they serve on the [House Judiciary Committee](#). For more information see the Library Copyright Alliance Press Release <http://www.librarycopyrightalliance.org/LCAFAIRUSE27Feb2007.pdf>

### **EU Public Access to Publicly Funded Research**

The [Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition](#) (SPARC) and [SPARC Europe](#) are requesting signatures from individuals and organizations in support of their [petition](#) to the European Community to demonstrate support for open access to government funded research. AALL has long joined with SPARC in its efforts to enact the [Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006](#), a bill which we hope to see introduced shortly in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. [Register](#) your support and view other [signatories](#) at SPARC Europe's web site.

## **Updates from the Hill**

### **Boxer takes EPA Administrator to task over EPA Libraries**

Washington Affairs Office Representative Mary Alice Baish and new part time assistant Elizabeth LeDoux attended one of the of many oversight [hearings](#) hosted by the new Democratic Congress. [Sen. Barbara Boxer](#) (D-CA), chair of the [Senate Environment and Public Works Committee](#), took [EPA Administrator Steve Johnson](#) to task for the lack of transparency in the way the EPA is now run, the closures of the EPA libraries, the rollback of the [Toxic Release](#)

[Inventory](#), and several other ways the EPA is using (or ignoring) science. For more details, view statements from the hearing record.

We have been working closely with both Boxer's staff and the House staff for the Science and Technology, Energy and Commerce, and Oversight Committees. The [House Energy & Commerce Committee](#) will conduct a hearing on the EPA budget on March 8<sup>th</sup> that will include the issue of the library closures.

Those tracking the EPA library closings will be interested to learn that the February 15<sup>th</sup> hearing regarding the [EPA's budget for FY 2008](#) has been postponed temporarily. A new date will be announced as soon as possible. It is also noteworthy that many of these hearings will be broadcast live for the public. Check the [Committee's hearing schedule](#) for a complete list of dates and times.

We want to thank SCALL/NOCALL/SANDALL, who sent a letter to Senator Boxer the week after the hearing supporting her action. And VALL, who sent a letter to Republican committee members Senator Warner (R-VA) asking him to work with his Republican colleagues to support access to government information by opposing the library closures.

### ***Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2007 – S.1***

[Sen. Harry Reid](#) (D-NV) introduced [S. 1](#), the *Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2007* (popularly known as the Ethics Reform bill) on January 4<sup>th</sup>. It was quickly debated, amended and voted on before passing by an almost unanimous vote 92-4 on January 18<sup>th</sup>. S. 1 currently awaits its fate in the House of Representatives. AALL strongly supports efforts such as [S. 1](#) to make government more open and accountable.

The bill addresses dozens of ethical points on members' dealings with lobbyists, including gifts and travel. The part in which we are most interested is summarized here by CRS:

[Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2007](#) - Authorizes a point of order by any Senator against consideration of a conference report that includes any matter not committed to the conferees by either chamber.

Adds Rule XLIV (Earmarks) to the Standing Rules of the Senate to make it out of order to consider any Senate bill, amendment, or conference report, unless a list of all its earmarks, the identity of the Member or Members proposing them, and an explanation of their essential governmental purpose, along with any associated joint statement of managers, is made available to all Members, and to the general public on the Internet, for at least 48 hours before its consideration

### ***Internet Freedom Preservation Act – S.215***

[S. 215](#), the Internet Freedom Preservation Act, was introduced by Senators [Byron Dorgan](#) (D-ND) and [Olympia Snow](#) (R-ME) on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The new Net Neutrality bill would amend the [Communications Act of 1934](#), effectively prohibiting large internet providers from restricting Web access to its competitors, or any other Web sites. [S. 215](#) has nine cosponsors, including

Senators [Barbara Boxer](#) (D-CA), [Hillary Clinton](#) (D-NY), [Barack Obama](#) (D-IL), [Ron Wyden](#) (D-OR) and [Patrick Leahy](#) (D-VT). Readers will recall the battle over net neutrality last year. AALL is on the record as strongly supporting this bill.

### ***Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act – H.R. 390***

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> the House passed [H.R. 390](#) directing the [National Archives](#) to create an electronically searchable database of historic records pertinent to servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction. Housed within federal agencies, digitizing these records in a central location will greatly enhance genealogical and historical research while ensuring their long-term preservation.

[H.R. 390](#) requires the [National Historical Publications and Records Commission](#) (NHPRC) to provide grants to states, colleges and universities, and genealogical associations to preserve records and establish databases of local records of such information. The bill authorizes \$5 million to create the searchable database and \$5 million to the NHPRC for the grants.

A companion bill, [S. 295](#), has been introduced by Senator [Mary Landrieu](#) (D-LA). H.R. 390 is now awaiting action in the [Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee](#).

### **Washington Office Activities**

#### ***Government Secrecy and Openness 2007: Closed Doors; Open Democracies? A national dialogue with government openness experts***

The second annual [Government Secrecy and Openness](#) event will take place Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM (EST). Web cast from the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. to sites around the country, the program will kick off [Sunshine Week 2007](#) with what promises to be an informative session on public access to government information. AALL is delighted to sponsor this program in conjunction with [OpenTheGovernment.org](#), the [American Library Association](#), the [Association of Research Libraries](#), the [League of Women Voters](#), the [National Coalition Against Censorship](#), the [National Freedom of Information Coalition](#), [OpenTheGovernment.org](#), the [Special Libraries Association](#), [Sunshine Week](#), and the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#).

Civic organizations, libraries, and AALL chapters are invited to [volunteer](#) as host sites. To learn more about becoming a host site for this exciting event, contact Emily Feldman or Patrice McDermott at (202) 332-6736 or [info@openthegovernment.org](mailto:info@openthegovernment.org). D.C. Law Librarians should plan to attend this event at the [National Press Club](#). Contact the [Washington Affairs Office](#) for complete details. Currently CALL and NOCALL are hosting the events in their states.

Join [Ira Flatow](#), host and executive producer of NPR's Science Friday and two panels of government and other experts in a national dialogue addressing issues of access to government information. Topics will include the impact of government

suppression and manipulation of scientific information on public health and safety – and accountability at the federal and the state and local levels. The event will begin with a lively discussion of the issues, feature video segments, and include a question-and-answer period. Audience members at all sites will have an opportunity to call in and e-mail questions to the program. Host sites will show the national program, followed by local programs tailored to open government issues in their communities.

**Speakers:**

**Ira Flatow (moderator)**, host and executive producer of NPR's Science Friday

**Dorothy Biggs**, former [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) librarian, now with the [National Enforcement Investigations Center](#)

**Jay Dyckman**, director of [The Knowledge Project](#) at the [National Coalition Against Censorship](#)

**Francesca Grifo**, Senior Scientist and Director of Scientific Integrity Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists

**Mark Tapscott**, Editorial Page Editor, the *Washington Examiner*

**Rick Piltz**, Founder and Director of [Climate Science Watch](#) and former [whistleblower](#) at the [U.S. Climate Change Science Program](#) (CCSP)

**Bill Wolfe**, Director, [New Jersey Chapter of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility](#) (PEER)

**Susan Wood**, Research Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and former FDA official who quit over the delay of Plan B

Visit [www.OpenTheGovernment.org](http://www.OpenTheGovernment.org) for a list of venues, registration information, and more!

## **Outside the Beltway: Chapter News**

### ***CALL's Sunshine Week Event: Notice to CALL Members***

Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL) is pleased to host the [Closed Doors, Open Democracies?](#) web cast on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at the [Chicago-Kent College of Law](#), Room 305. All members are cordially invited to join their colleagues for this dialogue on open government and secrecy. The program will examine access to government information, including the impact of suppression and manipulation of scientific information on public health and safety.

Registration will begin at 11:40, followed promptly by the presentation at noon. Beverages will be provided – please bring your own lunch. The cost is \$10.00 at the door. Please RSVP by email to Margaret Schilt at [schilt@uchicago.edu](mailto:schilt@uchicago.edu). Reservations will be accepted from CALL members only until February 26, 2007. The room is limited to 25 people; if space is still available on the 26th, we will invite other library groups, so please register early!

CALL Public Affairs Committee  
Kevin McClure  
Margaret Schilt

## ***NOCALL to Host Closed Doors, Open Democracies? Event***

The [Northern California Association of Law Libraries](#) (NOCALL) will host a live web cast of "[Closed Doors, Open Democracies?](#)" from Washington, D.C. A luncheon program discussion of local and state open government laws and issues will follow the presentation. Attendees will be able to call and/or e-mail questions to the panelists in Washington. The presentation will conclude with a lunchtime program on open meeting laws and freedom of information requests.

The event, which begins at 9:00 AM (PT), will be held at the [County of Alameda Training Center](#) in Oakland. Co-sponsors include the [San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Special Libraries Association](#), the [California First Amendment Coalition](#) and the [League of Women Voters of Oakland](#). Registration forms are due by Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. The form is available here as a [Word document](#) or [PDF](#).

## ***AALL joins ILA's efforts to Defeate S.B. 1682***

The [Illinois Library Association](#) is seeking allies in its fight to retain access to social networking web sites in local public and school libraries. State Senator [Matt Murphy](#) (R- IL-27) introduced [S.B. 1682](#) , the Social Networking Website Prohibition Act, on February 9<sup>th</sup> with the intent of protecting minors from online predators at public libraries and schools.

[S.B. 1682](#) mandates that Illinois public libraries prohibit access to social networking websites, including blogs, on all computers made available to the public in the library. It also stipulates that Illinois public schools must prohibit access to social networking websites on all computers made available to students in each school.

## **Free Time Well Spent: Further Reading for the Information Policy Junkie**

### ***CRS Director Moves to Restrict Analysts Media Contacts***

The Director of the Congressional Research Service last week issued a revised agency policy on "[Interacting with the Media](#)" that warns CRS analysts about the "very real risks" associated with news media contacts and imposes new restrictions on speaking to the press. A copy of the CRS policy on "[Interacting with the Media](#)" was obtained by Secrecy News.

### ***2007 National FOI Day Conference***

The ninth annual [FOI Day Conference](#) will be co-sponsored by the [First Amendment Center](#), [Sunshine Week](#), [American Library Association](#), [OpenTheGovernment.org](#), and the [Coalition of Journalists for Open Government](#). Although the 2007 National FOI Day Conference will be held as usual this year on March 16<sup>th</sup>, the venue for this year's event has moved from the rooftop conference center at the [Freedom Forum](#) in Arlington to the [National Press Club](#) in Washington, D.C. For more information, please visit the [First Amendment Center](#) web site.

## ***House Begins Oversight Hearings on Presidential Signing Statements***

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, [Cox Washington News](#) journalist Rebecca Carr reported that House Judiciary Chairman [Rep. John Conyers, Jr.](#) (D-MI-14) fired an [opening salvo](#) on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> in what is expected to be a series of hearings into allegations that the Bush administration is operating in excessive secrecy. Conyers said the committee would start with a formal inquiry into President Bush's use of "presidential signing statements" and build from there. But [Lamar Smith](#) (R-TX-21), the new ranking member of the panel, decried the controversy as "much ado about nothing." Critics of Bush have launched a massive fishing expedition, Smith said, but "have caught only the reddest of red herrings." Read the entire article [here](#) or watch video web casts of the hearings via the committee's [oversight web site](#) (requires [Real Player](#)).

## ***GPO Release White Paper on Web Harvesting 1.0***

The [Government Printing Office](#) is pleased to announce the release of its [white paper](#) on the results of its recently completed [Web Harvesting pilot project](#). The purpose of this project was to capture official [Environmental Protection Agency](#)(EPA) publications in scope of GPO's information dissemination programs. The white paper reports on the specific context of the results of the pilot, including a summary of analysis done on the work performed, an assessment of lessons learned, and planned future direction and next steps for further development of the harvesting function to be implemented during Release 2 of GPO's [Future Digital System](#) (FDsys) currently scheduled for mid-2008.

## ***Science.gov 4.0 Has Arrived with New features***

[Science.gov](#), the popular gateway to more than 50 million pages of authoritative selected science information provided by U.S. government agencies, has recently [announced](#) the addition of new features. Users will now be able to refine their search queries, email search results and sort results in a variety of ways using Science.gov Version 4.0 thanks to the implementation of [DeepRank](#). A sophisticated algorithm, [DeepRank](#) uses information gathered from full-text documents (when available) to perform relevancy ranking. The end result is "deeper" search and real-time ranking system that could slightly extend search time but returns results based on more information.

## ***New Issue of Global Legal Monitor Available***

A new issue of the Law Library of Congress' [Global Legal Monitor](#) has been released via the Library of Congress web site. Drawing upon the [Global Legal Information Network](#) (GLIN), the January 2007 issue includes fifty-five pages of recent developments in international legislation. An index of country names is provided.

## ***Comprehensive Study Examines Quality of 615 House and Senate Web Sites, Finds Quality Disappointing***

The 2006 Gold Mouse Report: Recognizing the Best Web Sites on Capitol Hill marks the third time that the [Congressional Management Foundation](#) has evaluated all Member, committee, and leadership Web sites and recognized the best Congressional Web sites with Mouse Awards."

- [Press release](#): "A new report card on congressional Web sites from the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) says the overall quality is "disappointing" with over a third of the congressional Web sites earning a substandard or failing grade. There was also recognition and praise for the best Web sites on Capitol Hill with the announcement of the winners of the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Mouse Awards."
- [table of contents](#), [introduction](#), [summary of key findings](#), [selected charts](#), [View the 2006 Mouse Award winners - The Best Web Sites on Capitol Hill](#), and [download the entire 2006 Gold Mouse Report](#) (100 pages, PDF)

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