The U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) opened its doors more than 150 years ago with the mission to promote the democratic process by keeping the American people informed about the workings of their government. GPO’s mission stems from Article I of the Constitution, which requires Congress to keep and publish a journal of its proceedings. Despite great changes to the way documents are published and distributed during this time, GPO’s mission has remained focused on providing access while keeping costs down by using the most efficient technologies. Today, GPO produces, authenticates, disseminates, and preserves government information in multiple formats from all three branches of government.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) strongly supports GPO’s FY 2017 budget request of $117 million, which is the same level of funding they received in FY 2016. The Library of Congress requested $667 million to support its priority initiatives, including making information technology improvements and preserving and providing access to the myriad tangible and electronic items in its vast collection. The House of Representatives passed its Fiscal Year 2017 Legislative Branch appropriations bill (H.R. 5325) on June 10, 2016. The bill provides full funding for the GPO, and an increase over 2016 levels for the Library of Congress.

AALL urges Congress to support the full funding requests of GPO and the Library of Congress because:

- With the constant evolution of the Internet and rapidly changing technologies, GPO and LC must work harder than ever before to meet their respective missions. Keeping up with the demands of information lifecycle management – including collection, processing, dissemination, use, storage, and disposition – requires adequate resources.

- For more than 150 years, GPO has "kept America informed" by providing access to official, authentic government information. Today, GPO provides cost-effective access to government information from all three branches in tangible and electronic formats primarily through the 200 year old Federal Depository Library Program and FDsys.

- The Library of Congress needs adequate funding to make necessary information technology improvements and preserving and providing access to the myriad tangible and electronic items in its vast collection. It’s important that the Library receive funding to improve access to its collections by finishing the classification of Law volumes to Class K.

Written by the AALL Government Relations Committee
AALL Contact: Emily Feltren, (312) 205-8010 efeltren@aall.org
June 2016