

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906 on the belief that people—lawyers, judges, students, and the public—need timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions, its more than 4,100 members are problem solvers of the highest order. AALL fosters the profession by offering its members knowledge, leadership, and community that make the whole legal system stronger.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

As the need for legal assistance grows, law libraries are taking on new roles and services to support the administration of justice and providing access to trustworthy legal information. AALL supports:

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

BALANCE IN COPYRIGHT

Law libraries require balanced copyright law and policies that allow them to access and preserve information, and to make information available to users. AALL supports:

- Protection of fair use and the library exceptions in Title 17
- Policies that enable digitization and greater access to knowledge, including updates to Section 1201 of Title 17
- Adequate resources for the Copyright Office, which has made significant strides in modernizing and improving information technology and which is well-served by its home in the Library of Congress
- Policies that ensure that government information is in the public domain and available to the public without restriction

GREATER ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Access to government information is essential to a strong democracy. Legal and government information must be authentic, complete, discoverable, and preserved for permanent public access. AALL supports:

- Adequate funding for agencies that support the lifecycle of government information, including the Government Publishing Office, the Library of Congress, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Archives and Records Administration
- A strong, centrally-coordinated Federal Depository Library Program
- Increased access to federal court information through PACER
- Efforts to provide access to government data in open and machine-readable formats



OPENNESS IN GOVERNMENT

Policies that strengthen openness protect the public from the government's penchant for secrecy. AALL supports:

- Net neutrality, which safeguards the unique, open nature of the internet, and promotes innovation, competition, and intellectual freedom
- Policies that encourage proactive disclosure of government information

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

As more information about individuals is available online, the government should take additional steps to protect library users' private information. AALL supports:

- Laws that ensure a balanced approach to privacy to protect library users and the free exchange of ideas and information
- Strong oversight and transparency of government surveillance and cybersecurity programs that monitor public communications and threaten the privacy of library users
- Updates to laws that protect individuals' privacy, including the privacy of electronic communications and data