

# Administration Releases FY 1998 Budget Proposal

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On February 6, the Clinton Administration released its proposed FY 1998 spending plan with ambitious proposals in support of education. The plan allocates \$1.69 trillion in 1998, with \$252 billion in net deficit reductions. A significant portion of those reductions will come from discretionary spending. Selected agency FY 1998 requests are summarized on the following page.

## **Library of Congress and Government Printing Office**

On February 11-12, the House Subcommittee on Legislative, Committee on Appropriations conducted hearings on the FY 1998 budget requests for the Library of Congress, the Government Printing Office (GPO), and related congressional branch activities. Robert Oakley, Professor of Law and Director of the Georgetown Law Library, testified on behalf of ARL, the American Library Association, the American Association of Law Libraries, and the Special Libraries Association in support of the budget requests. The Library of Congress requested \$387.6 million for FY 1998. This request would fund mandatory increases, provide the necessary continuity for many programs, and target selected strategic technological activities such as the Integrated Library System and the Global Legal Information Network.

Of particular interest and concern to the research library community is the recent opinion by the General Accounting Office that the Library does not have the full legal authority to retain direct and indirect funds from approximately 100 participating research libraries in the Cooperative Acquisitions Program. In his remarks before the Subcommittee, Oakley noted that the library community "would welcome the opportunity to work with members of the Subcommittee to clarify the Library's authority to continue this collaborative relationship that is cost effective to both the Congress and participating libraries." ARL staff are working closely with the Library to resolve this issue quickly.

The GPO requested \$30.4 million for the Superintendent of Documents Salaries and Expenses appropriations for FY 1998. \$25.8 million will support the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). This appropriation will permit the transition to a more electronically-based FDLP. In his statement, Oakley commented that in 1995, an estimated 189,000 to 237,000 users a week "were provided expert service in locating and using depository materials at the 1,370 partner libraries."

## **Administration Requests Significant Increase for NEH**

The Administration's spending plan includes a significant boost to the National Endowment for the Humanities. The requested \$136 million is \$26 million more than the FY 1997 budget. The Preservation and Access program is funded at \$18 million in FY 1997; the request for FY 1998 is \$21 million. The Research and Education program was also targeted for an increase--from \$21.5 million in the current year to \$30.6 million. ARL is supporting the NEH budget request in a joint statement developed with the Commission on Preservation and Access, Council on Library Resources and the National Humanities Alliance.

## **Institute of Museum and Library Services**

The FY 1998 Administration budget request for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) includes \$136.3 million for the Office of Library Services and \$26 million for the Office of Museum Services. This request includes first-time funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), formerly the Library Services and Construction Act. In September, IMLS was established to improve

library, museum, and information services via the consolidation of selected federal programs. Included in the library programs is a small allotment for programs of national significance or "national leadership grants," which may include support for joint museum/library projects.

## Funding for Selected Library and Related Programs

(amounts in thousands)

	FY97 Budget Req.	FY97 Approp.	FY98 Budget Req.
GPO Su.Docs.	\$30,827	\$29,077	\$30,477
Institute of Museum and Library Services	23,000	22,000	26,000
Library of Congress	373,000[1]	361,896[2]	387,600[3]
Library Services & Technology Act (or predecessor)	110,000	136,369[4]	136,370
Natl. Agricultural Library	19,000	19,000	19,000
Natl. Commission on Libraries and Info. Science	897	897	1,123
Natl. Library of Medicine (includes MLAA)	146,579	151,103	153,000
HEA Title III, Institutional Development	182,611	194,846	202,071
HEA Title IV-C, College Work-Study	679,000	830,000	857,000
HEA Title VI, International Education	59,073	59,751	60,251
HEA Title X-A, Postsecondary Ed.	18,000	18,000	18,000
Improvement Fund NTIA Info. Infrastructure Grants (TIAP)	18,478	21,490	36,000
National Archives & Records Admin.	196,964	196,963	206,479
NEA	136,000	99,494	136,000
NEH	136,000	110,000	136,000
Natl. Historical Pub. & Records Commission	4,000	5,000	4,000

[1] Includes authority to obligate \$28.3 million in receipts

[2] Includes authority to obligate \$30.138 million in receipts
[3] Includes authority to obligate \$30.4 million in receipts
[4] Includes appropriations for LSCA and HEA Title II
--Table Courtesy of ALA

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[Table of Contents for Issue 190](#) | [Other Federal Relations Articles](#) | [ARL Newsletter Home](#)

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