



Council on
Library and
Information
Resources

May 4, 2005

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
SD-184
Washington, D.C. 20510-6031

Dear Chairman Specter,

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) in support of the FY 2006 budget request of \$262,240,000 for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and in particular, the \$221,325,000 request for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) that includes the \$14,000,000 requested for National Leadership Grants for Libraries and \$26,000,000 for Librarians for the 21st Century.

Libraries are institutions that are essential to the communities that they serve and to our Nation. They preserve and provide access to our cultural, historical and scientific heritage, support and encourage research, education and lifelong learning, and provide a venue for community engagement on a host of issues. IMLS and the library programs it supports play a critically important role in enhancing library services throughout the country.

Two IMLS programs are of particular interest to the research library community; National Leadership Grants for Libraries and Librarians for the 21st Century. National Leadership Grants for Libraries include those focused on research and development relating to enhancing library services, digitization of library collections, education and training of library professionals and more. The following examples of IMLS grants in research and demonstration and in preservation or digitization are illustrative of the grants that IMLS support.

- The Fondren Library at Rice University was awarded an IMLS grant to establish a digital archive of narratives that describe travel to the Middle East between the 18th and 20th centuries. The archive, *Travelers in the Middle East*, will permit searching across texts, images, and maps.
- The University of Washington Libraries, in collaboration with the Olympic Peninsula Tribal Associations, the Clallam County Historical

Society, and other partners, will undertake a digitization project to document artifacts, stories, and events of tribal heritage in the Pacific Northwest. This digitization project will include many forms of media including photographs, videotape, and oral histories.

- The Digital Library Federation (DLF) was awarded a 2004 grant to partner with Emory University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), and the University of Michigan to research, design and prototype a second generation Open Archives Initiative (OAI) finding system. The aim is to foster better teaching and scholarship through easier, more relevant discovery of digital resources using the rich library collections of DLF members.
- The Michigan State University Library in collaboration with the Library of Michigan, Michigan Library Consortium, University of Michigan, Wayne State University, University of Detroit Mercy, Western Michigan University, Traverse Area District Library, and the Hiawathaland Library Cooperative will create "The Making of Modern Michigan," a curriculum on Michigan history for K-12 education. In addition, regional training centers will be established to provide additional training to the community.

Librarians for the 21st Century is specifically focused on recruiting and educating individuals in the library profession. IMLS has awarded ARL several grants that focus on recruitment, and importantly on diversity.

- A 2003 grant funded the expansion of the ARL Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce, a program designed to recruit, educate, and place in positions with ARL libraries newly minted librarians from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups.
- A 2004 IMLS was awarded to pilot the ARL Academy: Careers in Academic and Research Libraries initiative. ARL is partnering with three library schools—the Catholic University of America, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Simmons College—to recruit, educate, train, and place in positions within libraries 45 master's-level students.

IMLS and its programs are critically important to the evolving role of libraries in the networked environment. ARL and CLIR ask for your full support of the FY 2006 budget request for the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Sincerely,



Prudence S. Adler
Associate Executive Director
Association of Research Libraries



Nancy Davenport
President
Council on Library and Information Resources

***The Association of Research Libraries (ARL)** is a nonprofit organization of 123 research libraries in North America. ARL's members include university libraries, public libraries, government and national libraries. Its mission is to shape and influence forces affecting the future of research libraries in the process of scholarly communication. ARL programs and services promote equitable access to and effective uses of recorded knowledge in support of teaching, research, scholarship and community service.*

***The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)** is an independent, not-for-profit organization working to maintain and improve access to information for generations to come. In partnership with other organizations, CLIR helps create services that expand the concept of "library" and supports the providers and preservers of information. CLIR is supported by fees from sponsoring institutions, grants from public and private foundations, contracts with federal agencies and contributions from individuals.*