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March 29, 2007

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Chair, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room H-147 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz,

On behalf of the Association of Research Libraries and the American Library Association, we are writing in strong support of the request to restore \$21.5 million in funding for the National Digital Information Infrastructure Preservation Program (NDIIPP) in the Library of Congress FY 2008 request. This critically important program creates partnerships throughout the country to address issues associated with the preservation of our cultural, historical and scientific digital heritage.

Our society is increasingly digital, and a vast proportion of new knowledge is now only available in digital form. This content has a short shelf life, as continuing changes in format and technology can render digital data useless within a decade. This issue is extraordinarily complex and requires many approaches to explore and evaluate numerous potential solutions. In addition, digital content must be continually migrated to new and evolving technologies to ensure its long-term preservation. These efforts require extensive planning and partnerships across many sectors and disciplines.

Digital preservation activities and partnerships require multi-faceted expertise and distributed networks of organizations and cultures that have not worked together previously. NDIIPP serves as a forum for these partnerships to succeed. NDIIPP projects address geographical information, movie and music content, scientific data, government information, and more. NDIIPP is leading and stimulating these partnerships, enabling the necessary scientific and social research that will make this preservation possible.

Long-term preservation of digital data is not a short-term undertaking. The initial funding was only a beginning and has sparked new collaborative relationships and cost-sharing as no one sector can take on the enormity of this

challenge. We applaud Congress' vision in supporting this program in the past and hope that this strong support will continue in the future.

Sincerely,

*Prudence S. Adler*  
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Associate Executive Director  
Association of Research Libraries

*Lynne E. Bradley*  
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