December 7, 2015

The Honorable Candice Miller  
Chair, Committee on House Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Brady  
Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Brady,

On behalf of the Association of Research Libraries, I am writing regarding the recent hearing entitled “Improving Customer Service for the Copyright Community.” ARL believes that enhanced technological infrastructures are needed, indeed required, for both the Library of Congress and the US Copyright Office. Both require current, user friendly, secure and effective information technology systems in order to achieve their respective missions.

While ARL supports the adoption of new systems and technologies as well as the implementation of the General Accountability Office recommendations by both the Library and the US Copyright Office, we do not believe that in order to achieve more technologically sophisticated operations that autonomy by the Copyright Office is required. Making the US Copyright Office an independent agency in no way solves the technological problems facing the Office. Instead of investing taxpayer dollars in a costly move by the Office, funds should be directed to updating the Library’s and the Copyright Office’s technology infrastructure.

Among other reasons that the Library and the US Copyright Office should continue what has been a long and successful relationship, are the deposit requirements that have resulted in the Library’s collections being among the finest in the world. Disrupting such an important statutory relationship would result in serious harm to the Library’s future collection development efforts which is, of course, an essential element in the Library effectively serving the US Congress.
Please let me know if there is additional information that I can provide and thank you for your strong support for the Library and the Copyright Office.

Sincerely,

Prudence S. Adler

Association of Research Libraries