



May 2, 2006

Senator John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

We write in support of the Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006 on behalf of six national library associations: the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Medical Library Association and the Special Libraries Association. The mission of these associations – which collectively represent over 139,000 libraries in the United States employing 350,000 librarians and other personnel – is to foster global access to information for creative, research, and educational uses.

Libraries share your concern that far too often the results of research that the U.S. government funds – with tens of billions of taxpayer dollars each year – are not broadly available to researchers, scientists, physicians and members of the public. In addition to making scientific research available quickly, it is critical that the published information remains available for years to come. We are pleased to see that your bill provides for both early access and long-term preservation of scientific manuscripts.

Public access to publicly funded research facilitates the open discussion needed to accelerate research, share knowledge, improve treatment of diseases, and increase human understanding. Your bill is a crucial step in realizing this goal and we look forward to working with you to secure the bill's passage.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries  
American Library Association  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of College and Research Libraries  
Medical Library Association  
Special Libraries Association



**The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)** is a nonprofit educational organization with over 5,000 members nationwide. AALL's mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to the legal and public communities, to foster the profession of law librarianship, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information and information policy.

<http://www.aall.org/>

Contact: Mary Alice Baish (202-662-9200)

**The American Library Association (ALA)** is a nonprofit educational organization of over 65,000 librarians, library trustees, and other friends of libraries dedicated to improving library services and promoting the public interest in a free and open information society.

<http://www.ala.org/>

Contact: Miriam Nisbet (202-628-8410)

**The Association of Research Libraries (ARL)** The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) influences the changing environment of scholarly communication and the public policies that affect research libraries and the diverse communities they serve. ARL pursues this mission by advancing the goals of its member research libraries, providing leadership in public and information policy to the scholarly and higher education communities, fostering the exchange of ideas and expertise, and shaping a future environment that leverages its interests with those of allied organizations <http://www.arl.org/>

Contact: Prudence Adler (202-296-2296)

**The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)** is a division of the American Library Association (ALA), representing more than 13,000 academic and research librarians and interested individuals. Its initiatives enable the higher education community to understand the role that academic libraries play in the teaching, learning, and research environments.

<http://www.acrl.org> Contact: Mary Ellen Davis (800-545-24222, x. 3248)

**The Medical Library Association (MLA)**, a nonprofit, educational organization, is a leading advocate for health sciences information professionals with more than 4,700 members worldwide. Through its programs and services, MLA provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledgebase of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public. <http://www.mlanet.org/>

Contact: Carla Funk (312-419-9094 x.14)

**The Special Libraries Association (SLA)** is a nonprofit global organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves more than 12,000 members in 83 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy and networking initiatives. <http://www.sla.org/>

Contact: Doug Newcomb (703-647-4923)