



American Association of Law Libraries, Medical Library Association, Special Libraries Association Statement on the Release of the EPA National Library Network Strategic Plan 2012-2014

June 23, 2011 -- In a significant victory for the public who seek access to environmental information to make informed decisions, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released its long-awaited strategic plan for the EPA National Library Network. http://www.epa.gov/libraries/strategic_plan.html

The [American Association of Law Libraries \(AALL\)](#), the [Medical Library Association \(MLA\)](#), and the [Special Libraries Association \(SLA\)](#) congratulate the EPA on the release of the Library Network Strategic Plan and the associations look forward to working with the EPA on its implementation, especially regarding its plan to digitize and preserve materials in the Library Network's collections. We also encourage Congress to provide full funding for this program to ensure that the Plan can in fact be implemented.

AALL, MLA, and SLA together represent more than 20,000 librarians and information professionals. Our members are frequent users of EPA libraries and rely on these libraries for access to current and historic scientific, environmental, legal, and other government information.

Association representatives first met with EPA officials in spring 2006 after learning the EPA was closing libraries and dispersing valuable resources. Over this five year period, AALL, MLA, and SLA worked with many members of Congress, including Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), to ensure the Library Network would, in addition to remaining open for business, utilize emerging technologies to digitize, authenticate and circulate documents through electronic means.

We are pleased that researchers, government officials, and businesses will now have improved access to environmental information.