Net neutrality advocacy continues
ALA and the Center for Democracy & Technology recently urged the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to adopt strong, enforceable net neutrality rules essential to preserving freedom of speech, educational achievement, and economic growth online. In a letter to the FCC, the organizations call for the FCC to set the bar higher than the “commercially reasonable” standard the agency had proposed—whether using Title II for reclassification or Section 706 of the Communications Act, for a standard of Internet reasonableness to preserve the open nature of the Internet.

In October, John Windhausen, network neutrality counsel to ALA and president of Telepoly Consulting, represented libraries and higher education institutions as a panelist for an Open Internet roundtable discussion hosted by the FCC.

ALA launches educational 3-D printing policy campaign
In September, ALA announced the launch of “Progress in the Making,” a new educational campaign that will explore the public policy opportunities and challenges of 3-D printer adoption by libraries. The association released “Progress in the Making: An Introduction to 3D Printing and Public Policy,” a tip sheet that provides an overview of 3-D printing, describes a number of ways libraries are currently using 3-D printers, outlines the legal implications of providing the technology, and details ways that libraries can implement simple yet protective 3-D printing policies in their own libraries.

Over the next coming months, ALA will release a white paper and a series of tip sheets that will help the library community better understand and adapt to the growth of 3-D printers, specifically as the new technology relates to intellectual property law and individual liberties.

OTIP leaders attend ICMA Conference
ALA staff attended the International City/County Management Association Conference in Charlotte, held September 14–17. Larra Clark, OTIP deputy director, shared findings and new tools from the Digital Inclusion Survey, with a particular focus on how local communities can use the new interactive mapping tools to connect library assets to community demographics and concerns.

OTIP director appointed to University of Maryland Advisory Board
The College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland has appointed Alan Inouye, director of ALA’s Office for Information Technology Policy, to the inaugural Advisory Board for the university’s Master of Library Science degree program. The Advisory Board comprises of 17 leaders and students in the information professions who will guide the future development of the university’s MLS program. The board’s first task will be to engage in a strategic “re-envisioning the MLS” discussion.

(The lives of books” cont. from page 562)
