



## **STATE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES BUILDING**

The Tennessee State Library and Archives houses the founding documents of our state as well as irreplaceable historical photos, military records, deeds, journals, and letters. Collectively, these items tell the story of Tennessee and underpin its government. It is imperative that the SLA be fully funded to complete the new building. A great state deserves a great library.

## **NET NEUTRALITY HB1755 & SB1756**

Librarians believe that Free and Open Access to Information is vital to a healthy Democracy. Unfortunately, the FCC voted to gut Net Neutrality Protections that limit the power of ISPs, like Verizon and Comcast, to restrict, slow down, or control online content. Libraries rely on strong net neutrality to collect, create, and disseminate crucial information to Tennesseans. TLA calls on our legislature to support HB1756 and SB1756 which protects our freedom to access information online

## **SCHOOL LIBRARIAN REPRESENTATION**

The Tennessee Association of School Librarians strongly urges the governor of Tennessee to appoint a certified school librarian to the position of State Coordinator of School Library Services within the Department of Education. The appointment of a state coordinator will help to assure that school library media specialists and their respective districts receive leadership, advocacy, and advisory services pertinent to their needs at the state level.

## **RURAL BROADBAND**

With an ever increasing number of job applications, educational opportunities, government programs, and veterans benefits moving online, digital literacy is essential to economic participation and family life. However, an estimated 422,000 households across TN lack access to landline internet speeds that meet the FCC benchmark of high speed broadband. Across TN, rural libraries are the sole free Internet and computer providers in their communities and need additional supports to meet the digital information need rural areas currently face while waiting for broadband access in their area.

