

(1) that the Congress of the United States on April 24, 1800, established for itself a library of the Congress;

(2) that in 1815, the Congress purchased the personal library of the third President of the United States which contained materials on every science known to man and described such a collection as a “substratum of a great national library”;

(3) that the Congress of the United States in recognition of the importance of printing and its impact on America purchased the Gutenberg Bible in 1930 for the Nation for placement in the Library of Congress;

(4) that the Congress of the United States has through statute and appropriations made this library accessible to any member of the public;

(5) that this collection of books and other library materials has now become one of the greatest libraries in civilization;

(6) that the book and the printed word have had the most profound influence on American civilization and learning and have been the very foundation on which our democratic principles have survived through our two hundred-year history;

(7) that in the year 1977, the Congress of the United States assembled hereby declares its reaffirmation of the importance of the printed word and the book and recognizes the importance of a Center for the Book to the continued study and development of written record as central to our understanding of ourselves and our world.

It is therefore the purpose of sections 171 to 175 of this title to establish a Center for the Book in the Library of Congress to provide a program for the investigation of the transmission of human knowledge and to heighten public interest in the role of books and printing in the diffusion of this knowledge.

(Pub. L. 95-129, § 1, Oct. 13, 1977, 91 Stat. 1151.)

§ 172. Definitions

As used in sections 171 to 175 of this title—

(1) the term Center means the Center for the Book;

(2) the term Librarian means the Librarian of Congress.

(Pub. L. 95-129, § 2, Oct. 13, 1977, 91 Stat. 1151.)

§ 173. Establishment of Center for the Book

There is hereby established in the Library of Congress a Center for the Book.

The Center shall be under the direction of the Librarian of Congress.

(Pub. L. 95-129, § 3, Oct. 13, 1977, 91 Stat. 1151.)

§ 174. Function of Center for the Book

The Librarian through the Center shall stimulate public interest and research in the role of the book in the diffusion of knowledge through such activities as a visiting scholar program accompanied by lectures, exhibits, publications, and any other related activities.

(Pub. L. 95-129, § 4, Oct. 13, 1977, 91 Stat. 1152.)

§ 175. Administrative provisions

The Librarian of Congress, in carrying out the Center's functions, is authorized to—

(1) prescribe such regulations as he deems necessary;

(2) receive money and other property donated, bequeathed, or devised for the purposes of the Center, and to use, sell, or otherwise dispose of such property for the purposes of carrying out the Center's functions, without reference to Federal disposal statutes; and

(3) accept and utilize the services of voluntary and noncompensated personnel and reimburse them for travel expenses, including per diem, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5.

(Pub. L. 95-129, § 5, Oct. 13, 1977, 91 Stat. 1152.)

§ 176. Mass Book Deacidification Facility; operation by Librarian of Congress

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Librarian of Congress shall equip, furnish, operate, and maintain the Library of Congress Mass Book Deacidification Facility.

(Pub. L. 98-427, § 2, Sept. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1656.)

AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTRUCT FACILITY

Section 1 of Pub. L. 98-427 provided: “That the Librarian of Congress is authorized and directed, subject to the supervision and construction authority of a Federal civilian or military agency, to construct the Library of Congress Mass Book Deacidification Facility in accordance with the general design developed by the Library of Congress and reviewed by the Architect of the Capitol, as set forth in the document entitled ‘Library of Congress Mass Book Deacidification Facility, Engineering, Design, and Cost Estimate and Drawings’, dated December 1983. Such facility shall be constructed on Federal property within seventy-five miles of the United States Capitol Building.”

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION

Section 3 of Pub. L. 98-427 provided that: “There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1983, sums not to exceed \$11,500,000 to carry out the provisions of this Act [enacting this section and a provision set out as a note under this section].”

§ 177. Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry

(a) Recognition

The Congress recognizes that the Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress has for some time occupied a position of prominence in the life of the Nation, has spoken effectively for literary causes, and has occasionally performed duties and functions sometimes associated with the position of poet laureate in other nations and societies. Individuals are appointed to the position of Consultant in Poetry by the Librarian of Congress for one- or two-year terms solely on the basis of literary merit, and are compensated from endowment funds administered by the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board. The Congress further recognizes this position is equivalent to that of Poet Laureate of the United States.

(b) Position established

(1) There is established in the Library of Congress the position of Poet Laureate Consultant