



ASSOCIATION OF  
RESEARCH LIBRARIES

September 23, 2009

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman, Chair  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-340  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins, Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-340  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins,

This letter is submitted for the hearing record on behalf of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in strong support of the nomination of David Ferriero as Archivist of the United States. Mr. Ferriero's extensive management experience in large, complex organizations, his familiarity with technology issues, particularly issues concerning preservation of and access to digital resources, and his deep understanding of the public policy issues that confront the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), make him an ideal choice for Archivist of the United States.

Mr. Ferriero would bring many important areas of expertise and experience to the National Archives. Through his work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Duke University and more recently, at the New York Public Library, Mr. Ferriero managed three large organizations during a time of significant transformation and technological change. Such experience will be instrumental in helping NARA manage the print and increasingly online records of federal agencies while at the same time, change its role from one that preserves the paper records of Government to one that manages, preserves, and provides access to both paper and electronic records. This is a new role for the National Archives and will entail new technological, managerial, and cultural changes for the agency.

Communications expertise is another essential component of leadership. The Archivist of the United States must work effectively with Congress, other branches of government, and members of the public and the private sectors to ensure that NARA's mission is achieved effectively. To this end, NARA leadership must engage in extensive collaboration and forge new partnerships. Mr. Ferriero is known for his engagement and outreach to the many diverse constituencies that he has served throughout his career.

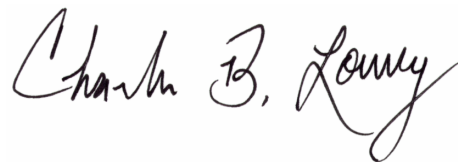
NARA, like all institutions and entities, is undergoing significant change due to the advent of the Internet and the World Wide Web. Widespread use of these digital, network-based technologies has led to massive change in organizational and agency practice, and marketplace models. Deploying and realizing the benefits of these technologies in support of effective, open, and transparent Government is a cornerstone of the Obama Administration. The National Archives should be a key agent in this transformative agenda. Mr. Ferriero brings a strong familiarity with and understanding of technology and technological trends and will provide the National Archives the leadership necessary to assume that role. Understanding the role of technology in serving the public is essential given the size and complexity of NARA and the diversity of the constituencies it serves.

Finally, there are host of information policy issues that the Archivist and NARA must address internally, in its work with and responsibilities to federal agencies, and in its work with the Administration and Congress. Key issues include privacy, security, preservation, and access concerns relating to federal records.

The research library community and NARA share a common mission – to support effective access to and preservation of information. Mr. Ferriero's long and varied career within research libraries means that he is ably suited to work with NARA staff, outside constituencies, others in the Obama Administration, and Congress in achieving NARA's mission.

Thank you for considering Mr. Ferriero's nomination. Please let me know if there is additional information that I can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles B. Lowry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" at the end.

Charles Lowry  
Executive Director  
Association of Research Libraries