

FEDERAL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTER COMMITTEE

FEDLINK FISCAL OPERATIONS
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Payment in Advance for FEDLINK Services

FEDLINK operates under the authority of P.L. 106-481, The Library of Congress Fiscal Operations Improvement Act of 2000 (2 US Code 182c. (See GPO Access for a copy of the law at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=106_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ481.106.pdf.)

Section 103 (a)(2) of the Act speaks to payment for products and services:

ADVANCES OF FUNDS. – Participants in the FEDLINK program and the Federal Research program shall pay for products and services of the program by advance of funds--
(A) if the Librarian determines that amounts in the Revolving Fund are otherwise insufficient to cover the costs of providing such products and services; or
(B) upon agreement between participants and the Librarian.

On September 25, 2001 (6 days before the law went into effect), Librarian of Congress James H. Billington made a determination that FEDLINK program funds must be collected in advance in order for the FEDLINK program to operate. Dr. Billington's determination states in pertinent part:

"...[P]ursuant to [sect.] 103 (c)(2)(A) of the revolving fund statute, because amounts in the FEDLINK account of the revolving fund would otherwise be insufficient to cover the costs of providing FEDLINK products and services, I hereby direct that participating agencies be required to pay for FEDLINK products and services by advance of funds."

The FEDLINK program provides each receiving agency with a monthly statement of the current balance in each account so that an agency may monitor its funds usage. In addition, updated customer account balances are accessible (with a 24-hour delay) through the password-protected FEDLINK ALIX-FS system.