

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Sixth Meeting
June 15-16, 1972

Summary of Proceedings

There were present:

Members of the Commission: Messrs. Aines, Becker, Burkhardt, Crotty, Cuadra, Dunlap, Goland, Lerner, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Mumford (or, for most of the sessions, as his substitute, Mr. Lorenz), Miss Scott, and Messrs. Velde and Zipf. Messrs. Baker and Kemeny did not attend.

Staff: Messrs. Stevens and Swartz, Mrs. Reszetar, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Ulrich, and Miss Bowman, Mr. Burkhardt's secretary.

Guests: As listed in the full proceedings.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., June 15, 1972.

Agenda for the Meeting

Mr. Stevens proposed the following agenda for the meeting:

Review of developments since the last meeting.
Presentation by the staff of the National Agricultural Library.
Report of the Commission's sub-group on national planning.
Discussion of a proposal for a periodicals and monograph center.
Regional hearings.
Decisions about the use of 1972 year-end funds.

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on April 13-14, 1972, which had been distributed in advance of the meeting, were approved with the following change:

P. 10, the last full paragraph should read: "Mr. Dunlap said he considered the proposal a very important one and he hoped the Commission would support the proposed study, but he wanted to call attention to the fact that, in a paper he had prepared for the Commission, he had been concerned also with the problem of book depositories."

Executive Director's Report

Testimony on the Commission's budget request for 1974 had been presented at House Appropriation Committee hearings since the last meeting of the Commission. [Later in the meeting the Chairman reported that the House had on June 15 approved a budget of \$406,000 for the Commission. He said the Senate was expected to act on the appropriation request during the week of June 26.]

Mr. Stevens had met with the staff of the Senate Subcommittee on Patents, Trade-Marks, and Copyright to find out whether the Commission's resolution on the subject of copyright might have any force and effect at this time. He had been advised that copyright legislation probably would not be reintroduced in 1973, but would be reintroduced in 1974, with possible action by January 1, 1975, on the new copyright legislation. Meanwhile, Mr. Stevens said, efforts are under way to reach a more formalized gentlemen's agreement between librarians and publishers upon which copying can be based, at least until legislation is passed. He said that he and Mr. Swartz will keep themselves and Commission members informed of discussions between the groups involved and in general about what is going on concerning copyright and copyright legislation. [By early autumn this situation had changed and it was expected then that the 93rd Congress would resume active consideration of the copyright revision bill early in 1973.]

At the April meeting Mr. Stevens had said he expected that the Commission would this year receive the John R. Rowe Cash Award (given by the Addison-Wesley Publishing Company). Now, however, it appears likely that the Award will not be made to anyone in 1972.

Miss Mary Raitt, a librarian and technical writer, had, Mr. Stevens said, prepared copy for a brochure about the Commission.

Mr. Stevens and Mr. Burkhardt had spent a short time in England in late May and early June. Mr. Stevens had examined library utilization that results from the Open University at Blechley, and he had visited the National Reprographic Center, which is working on many sides of the problem of use of microforms in libraries. He and Mr. Burkhardt together had discussed plans for The British Library with various concerned persons and visited facilities that will be components of it. These included the National Central Library and the National Lending Library at Boston Spa. (The proceedings of this Commission meeting for the morning of June 15, pp. 18-45, include an explanation of the British system and plans.)

In commenting on the relevance for the U.S. of what is going on in Britain, Mr. Stevens and Mr. Burkhardt said that the difference in geographical size and the difference in size of populations must be kept in mind, that the centralization of responsibility--particularly for funding--in Britain (practically one hundred percent national funding there, as compared to something like five to ten percent national funding here) is a difference of major proportions, and that the higher quality of leadership in England is notable. Also, the British have defined an area to be supported, i.e., they

are developing basically a research and reference system--not for children, or recreation, or anything of that kind--in a way that is different from practices in this country (Mr. Burkhardt thinks one of the reasons this happened is that a successful start was made with scientific and technical materials), and the British copyright laws make procedures viable there which at present would produce problems here.

Mr. Goland said he thought the whole copyright question which, as he put it, really has to do with the basic mechanisms by which private publications interact with the library system and both remain healthy, is an important agenda item for the Commission. It was pointed out that at its last meeting the Commission had agreed upon a statement (see p. 9 of the minutes of the April 13-14, 1972 meeting) which reflected a decision that currently its best course is to recommend enactment of a revision of the Copyright Act as soon as possible (and Mr. Lorenz expressed satisfaction with provisions in the bill that has been before Congress for some years). However, there was general agreement that copyright will remain a matter of central concern to the Commission.

The meeting was recessed briefly and then the Commission was joined by members of the staff of the National Agricultural Library, who described its program.

National Agricultural Library

Mr. John Sherrod, Director of the Library, explained that it is both a national library and the library of the Department of Agriculture--largely scientific and technical. It originated as the Patent Office library, which was shifted to the Department of Agriculture in 1964. Its bibliography began in 1942. The Agriculture Library is smaller than the other national libraries, Mr. Sherrod said; it has a budget of about \$4,000,000 a year and employs about 200 people. It receives approximately one thousand requests per week--at least half of them from within the Department. About 80% of the material requested can be supplied from the Library's own collection and it hopes to raise this figure to 85%. Mr. Sherrod stated the Library's goal as follows: To take responsibility for acquiring, or having access to, or knowledge of the existence of every significant document in agricultural and related sciences and to make it available to the Department of Agriculture or to anyone else who has a need for it. The National Agricultural Library (unlike the National Library of Medicine) markets its output, i.e., its bibliography and the National Agricultural Library Catalogue, through commercial channels. This was done for financial reasons, Mr. Sherrod said, and provides a broader distribution.

At this point the members of the Commission were taken on a tour of the Library.

After the tour, members of the Library staff discussed several of its programs in detail and Mr. Sherrod responded to questions addressed to him by members of the Commission about federal library cooperation. He favors

a strong federal library system that would eliminate duplication (e.g., the separate law libraries of all the Departments) and effect savings through centralized warehousing, purchasing, and the like; also, speaking personally, he said he would like to see one national library that would include the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, and the National Agricultural Library.

There was a recess for lunch, at which members of the Library staff were present.

Report of the Sub-Group on National Planning (Messrs. Cuadra, Becker and Lerner)

Mr. Cuadra said the group, which had met several times, had concerned itself with and would report on the following matters:

1. Review of the group's conception of its task and of its activities.
2. NCLIS image.
3. Information framework for planning.
4. Review of preliminary user study.
5. Plans for user study.
6. The NCLIS "cognizance" function.
7. Criteria for NCLIS project selection.
8. Library funding.

1. The group thought that some initial steps should be taken to define the objectives of library and information services. It learned that no established or approved list of library and information needs now exists; but, even if one did, it was assumed that it would have to be organized and classified. The group thought that a definition of objectives would include a statement concerning the rights of people to certain kinds of information services, and that, as a part of the task of definition, there should be evaluation by persons outside the Commission of its conception of the needs. Secondly, the group thought there is a need for concern with sources of support for libraries and possible constraints on the availability of funds --especially for public libraries. Mr. Lerner has done some preliminary thinking in this area. Thirdly, the group wanted to develop some sort of framework to help the Commission decide what it ought to do and what it ought not to do. Mr. Becker volunteered to develop some criteria for NCLIS project selection. Mr. Cuadra commissioned some consultant help for the preparation of a preliminary user study.

2. Mr. Lerner presented several displays of symbols that might be adopted by the Commission. In preparing them, he said, these concerns had been in mind: equal access to information--information in its broadest sense, cooperation, and networking. It was agreed that such a symbol should be adopted, and one of the three of which Mr. Lerner presented examples was selected. The logo is to be used in ways for which government expenditure is allowed. Mr. Lerner will have proofs of such use of the logo printed up and sent around to the Commission members. Uses of the logo for which government expenditure is not allowed should await the receipt of private contributions to cover the cost.

3. Mr. Cuadra said the group had tried to define the kinds of information needed for planning. Categories of needs are set forth in a chart he presented which is appended to this summary of the proceedings as Attachment 1. The headings of the vertical columns are intended to reflect the Commission's responsibilities according to its enabling legislation. On the left-hand side of the chart are listed Commission tasks with respect to the major considerations that head the columns. The work of the Commission, Mr. Cuadra said, will be to fill in the boxes below and to the right of the headings.

At this point there was a return to a question that had been much discussed by the Commission at earlier meetings: Must there be a plan and a set of priorities before anything else is done? In response, Mr. Cuadra referred to the fifth box down on the left-hand side of the chart he had presented (Attachment 1), "Define New Projects and/or Actions." It is not necessary, he said, to wait until the framework is filled out completely before the Commission undertakes projects it might decide upon. The Chairman said he felt the Commission members still lack shared knowledge about any one area and that they must take steps to get that kind of sharing.

Turning to the "Tentative Time Scale for NCLIS National-Planning-Related Activities" (Attachment 2), Mr. Cuadra said that his group would propose that #1 on this listing ("Identify present and future needs for library/information service . . .") should be the first study undertaken. The second task should be #2 ("Assess adequacies and deficiencies of current library/information resources.") [Mr. Cuadra suggested as the discussion progressed that #1 and #2 should perhaps not overlap, as indicated on the chart; rather, it might be better for #2 to follow #1.]

There was discussion of whether #3 ("Assess potentials of technology") should be started before user needs and adequacies and deficiencies of resources were identified. Mr. Cuadra spoke in favor of compressing the calendar, and he said too that when one is trying to state user needs it is well to ask what is possible. However, the Chairman noted, new technology may be developed because of user needs. It was agreed that #3 might better be stated: "Assess the applicability of present and future technology."

4. Mr. Cuadra then reviewed with the Commission the "Preliminary User Study" he had had done, which is on file in the Commission office. The main conclusion, he said, is that the literature that was uncovered thus far does not really adequately specify what kinds of objectives there should be for future information supplying systems. No one seems to state the information needs.

5. Plans for user study. Mr. Cuadra's proposal, which he reviewed, is outlined in Attachment 3. [See below, decisions for the use of year-end money: the first two items approved cover parts of the "user study".]

6. The NCLIS "cognizance" function. (An outline of activities to develop a proposed "cognizance" function of NCLIS is attached as Attachment 4.) Mr. Cuadra stressed the importance of the Commission's setting up mechanisms for knowing what is happening in the library and information world. No one else is doing this, he said.

The meeting was recessed at 4 p.m. on June 15.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m., June 16, 1972.

Continuation of the Executive Director's Report

Mr. Stevens reported that Dr. Gerald Orme, Chairman of the American National Standards Institute, Committee Z-39, which under the aegis of the Council of National Library Associations outlines and passes on standards regarding library materials, had inquired whether the Commission might at some time in the future take over the sponsorship of this Committee. Mr. Stevens assumes that would mean funding of its work by the Commission at the rate of some \$25,000 annually. Members of the Commission expressed their appreciation of the importance of achieving standards; but there was no sentiment favoring either financial support of Committee Z-39 by the Commission or the sponsoring of this or other similar outside activities.

Mr. Stevens read to the Commission two resolutions that had been adopted by the Executive Committee and the National Advisory Board of the New England Library Information Network (NELINET) on April 17, 1972 and sent to the Commission. The resolutions are quoted in Attachment 5, appended to this summary of proceedings. (For a description of the Ohio College Library Center, mentioned in the resolutions, (which Mr. Lorenz said is the only large regional system now in existence) see pp. 11 ff. of the proceedings for the June 16, 1972 Commission meeting.) Mr. Lorenz thought the Commission ought to be receptive to this kind of request for national oversight of what is going on and what needs to go on in the future in terms of beneficial regional development; but, he added, when the request is specific, problems and difficulties are raised. The conclusions of the Commission on this matter were communicated in a letter Mr. Stevens wrote at

its request to the Director of the New England Library Information Network, an excerpt from which appears also on Attachment 5, appended to this summary.

Mr. Stevens reported on a meeting of the Association of Research Libraries held in Atlanta in May, which he and Mr. Burkhardt had attended.

Mr. Swartz reported on various conversations he had had with people in government and private agencies in Washington and on participation in several meetings outside Washington.

Legislative Contacts

The staff was urged to develop working relations with staffs of congressional committees and it also was suggested that the Commission, sometime when it met in Washington, should invite Congressmen and Senators who are interested in libraries to a reception.

Conflict of Interest

Mr. Swartz had conferred with people in the office of the General Counsel of the Civil Service Commission and had been told that if a company with which a Commission member is associated contracts with the Commission, that Commission member can have nothing whatever to do with the contract. If an apparent conflict of interest should develop into a real conflict, then either the member must leave the Commission or the contract must be terminated.

Special Meeting of the Commission

It was agreed that a special meeting of the Commission should be held in Washington on October 27 to hear various people and group representatives who want to present their views. All who will be invited for October 27 should be sent a copy of the Commission's enabling act and asked to submit a statement in advance on what they are doing or propose to do that fits it. At the September meeting, Commission members will be assigned tasks of reviewing the statements and preparing questions to be asked on October 27.

Report of the Sub-Group on National Planning (discussion resumed)

7. Mr. Becker presented and the Commission discussed "Suggested Criteria for Judging Projects which the Commission can either Support or Endorse." Mr. Becker agreed to revise the criteria in the light of the discussion and the resulting document is appended to this summary of proceedings as Attachment 6.

8. Library Funding. Mr. Lerner discussed differing kinds of support for public libraries, and said that little information has been assembled on public library financing. He proposed that the Commission undertake a study of this subject, including in it a review of legal provisions and of what the impediments to library funding are. Mrs. Moore suggested that a popular article on the financial problems of libraries would be helpful to the Commission in the performance of the task assigned it. The Commission agreed that it wanted to study how public libraries are funded, and it wanted to be prominent as the instigator of this study--whether or not it was done in conjunction with some other agency (the Office of Education having been suggested). [See below, decisions on the use of year-end money.]

Gifts to the Commission

It was agreed that the Commission should act formally to accept any gift offered to it for the support of its work, and the staff was asked to prepare a statement regarding procedures to be followed with respect to the receipt of gifts.

Sub-Committees of the Commission

The following sub-committees were appointed:

For the study of the needs of users

for library and information services: Mr. Cuadra, chairman
Mr. Becker
Mr. Zipf

To assess adequacies and deficiencies
of current library/information
services:

Mr. Lorenz, chairman
Mrs. Moore
Mr. Velde
Miss Scott
Colonel Aines

Potential contributions of technology:

Mr. Baker, chairman
Mr. Goland
(others to be added)

Public Relations:

Mr. Lerner, chairman
Mr. Crotty
Mr. Velde
Miss Scott

Liaison with the Library of Congress:

Mr. Burkhardt, chairman
Mr. Dunlap
Mr. Kemeny

It was recognized that to give attention to the following subjects, which are headings of columns on Attachment 1 of this summary, might necessitate the appointment of additional subcommittees: innovative practices and utilization patterns (included in the second heading); inter-library organization and operation; financial and administrative support of library/information service; and staffing and manpower.

Appropriation of Fiscal Year 1972 Funds

There was discussion of the use of year-end funds during the course of which there was a recess for lunch/.

As agreed at the last meeting of the Commission, the staff and Mr. Dunlap had been discussing with the Association of Research Libraries plans for a study of the feasibility of a resources center for periodical and monographic materials. And the Association also had just recently resubmitted to the National Science Foundation a proposal to study a periodical resources center (excluding monographs), an electronic distributive network for periodical material, and a fee system for borrowers. NSF's response has been encouraging. The staff recommended that the Commission obligate a part of its year-end money to NSF to be used toward the support of the work planned by ARL, but this appeared not to be practical, since NSF did not expect to use '72 money for the project and it would thus be awkward for it to obligate before the end of the year any money the Commission might provide. Rather, a sole source contract with ARL for a part of the project appeared the feasible way to proceed. Mr. Stephen McCarthy, Executive Director of ARL, agreed by telephone to negotiate such a contract.

The following distribution of the Commission's fiscal '72 funds was then approved:

- \$16,000 - to an institute at the University of California, Berkeley, for phases 1-4 of the "user needs" study (see letter of intent received by the Commission office);
- 7,000 - to the Stanford Institute of Communications Research for work to be carried on by Edwin C. Parker on a "Study of 1975-80 Society and Technology" as it will be expected to affect library and information science users;
- 14,000 - for a study of public library funding, expected to be carried on by Public Administration Services;
- 15,000 - to the Association of Research Libraries for partial support of a study which will look toward the feasibility of a resources center for periodicals and monographs, a fee system for borrowers, and other related matters, to be worked out by ARL, Mr. Dunlap, and the staff.

\$52,000

Regional Hearings

Plans for the regional hearing in Chicago on September 27 were discussed and draft letters of invitation to testify were reviewed. The invitations will ask for views on what library and information services are needed. Though written testimony in advance is wanted, its submission is not to be a necessary condition to appearance. Public notice of the hearings is to be given and the Commission hopes to hear all who wish to testify.

Commission Meeting Dates

Commission meetings are scheduled as follows:

Regional hearing, Chicago - September 27, 1972
Commission meeting, Chicago - September 28-29, 1972
Special meeting for presentations, Washington - October 27, 1972
Regional hearing, San Francisco - November 29, 1972
Commission meeting, San Francisco - November 30-December 1, 1972
Commission meeting, Washington - January 25-26, 1973 (to include a visit
to NSF)
Regional hearing, Atlanta - March 7, 1973
Commission meeting, Atlanta - March 8-9, 1973
Commission meeting, Washington - April 19-20, 1973
Commission meeting, New York - May 31-June 1, 1973

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

A. AN INFORMATION FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL PLANNING

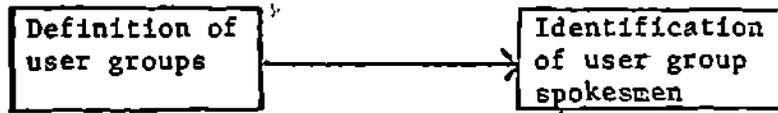
Major considerations Program Tasks	Needs of users for lib/info. service	Current library/info. services (inc. innovative practices and utilization patterns)	Potential contributions of technology	Inter-lib. org. & oper.	Fin. & Adm. Support for lib/info serv.	Staffing & Manpower
Define information objectives						
Define specific NCLIS information requirements						
Review and synthesize current knowledge						
Specify additional information req. for NCLIS plng.						
Define new projects and/or actions						<p style="text-align: right;">NCLIS 6/15-16/72 Attachment 1</p>
Initiate or encourage projects and/or actions						<p style="text-align: right;">CC/JB/LL 6/72</p>

B. TENTATIVE TIME SCALE FOR NCLIS
NATIONAL-PLANNING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

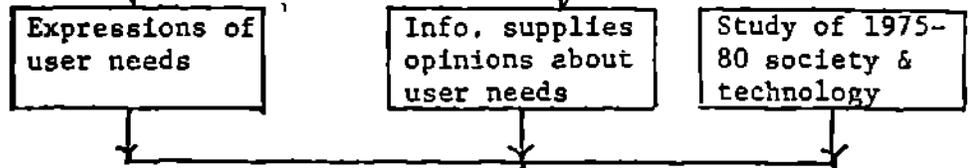
<u>Project/Task</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>Range of Costs</u>
0. Develop plans for an NCLIS "cognizance" function	2 months beginning 7/1/72	NCLIS staff "
1. Identify present and future needs for library/information service, together with implied means of meeting them.	12-18 months beginning 7/1/72	\$50-500,000
2. Assess adequacies and deficiencies of current library/info resources.	12-18 months beginning 1/1/73	\$50-500,000
3. Assess potentials of ^{<i>the applicability of present + future</i>} technology	6-9 months beginning 1/1.73	\$50-100,000
4. Specify functional requirements for adequate library/info. service	3-6 months beginning 1/1/74	\$50-100,000
5. Define and evaluate alternative means of meeting the function requirements (technical means, organizational means, financial means)	12-36 months beginning 4/1/74	\$200,000+

D. OUTLINE OF PLAN FOR DEFINITION OF USER NEEDS

PRELIMINARY
PLANNING

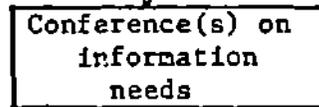


SURVEYS AND
ANALYSES

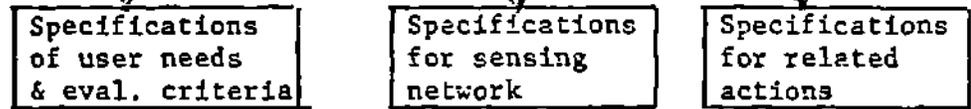


MATERIAL FOR
~~CONFERENCE(S)~~

Working Groups



OUTCOMES



C. OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES TO
DEVELOP A PROPOSED
"COGNIZANCE" FUNCTION OF NCLIS
(Task 0)

1. Identify all literature disseminated in past two years that is clearly related to national planning function of NCLIS.
2. Identify past, current and planned projects, documented or not, that are clearly related to the national planning function of NCLIS.
3. Relate (1) and (2) to specific components of NCLIS's national planning framework.
4. Set up continuing mechanism to do (1), (2), and (3).
5. Assist major funding agencies and potential grantees in evaluation of proposed projects related to NCLIS's national planning function, as outlined in charter.

Resolutions adopted by the New England Library Information Network:

"Unanimously Declared at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, on Monday, April 17, 1972 by the Executive Committee and National Advisory Panel of the New England Library Information Network,

"RESOLUTION TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

"WHEREAS, the New England Library Information Network, (NELINET), the Ohio College Library Center, (OCLC), the Five Associated University Libraries, (FAUL), as well as other library groups, anticipate the ultimate development of a national network of regional library centers, and are now actively cooperating toward that goal; and

"WHEREAS, there is a need for an agency to be designated to coordinate the development of a national library network, and

"WHEREAS, funding is urgently needed to provide support for the coordination and development of such a network, and

"WHEREAS, there are certain basic problems common to the implementation of all regional library centers and to their interface with each other;

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, together with appropriate regional network representatives, propose solutions to the basic problems posed by the need for coordination and the need for funding inherent in the development of a national network of regional library centers."

"Unanimously declared at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, on Monday, April 17, 1972 by the Executive Committee of the New England Library Information Network.

"RESOLUTION

"WHEREAS, the simulation of the OCLC study demonstrates the technical capacity of that system to serve the New England libraries and

"WHEREAS, the OCLC shared cataloging system is cost beneficial for the Dartmouth College Library;

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the NELINET Executive Committee unanimously commit NELINET to work toward the implementation of the OCLC system in New England. This recommendation also has the unanimous support of the NELINET National Advisory Panel."

Excerpt from letter from Charles H. Stevens, Executive Director, National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, to Ronald F. Miller, Director, New England Library Information Network, July 21, 1972:

"I can assure you that the Commission is interested in the work of NELINET and in the cooperative scheme being worked out between NELINET and the Ohio College Library Center. I can further assure you that the Commission will watch with great interest the developments that occur not only for NELINET but for the other regional organizations that bear some resemblance to it. The Commission recognizes its obligation for planning and for working cooperatively with these regional organizations but is not yet ready to outline its own commitments with regard to these responsibilities nor to take on a single commitment that may prejudice its later actions with regard to the total national problem. . . . We hope you will take the formal as well as the informal steps of keeping our office informed of the developments within NELINET. I shall try to do the same for you regarding the work of the Commission.

"I hope you will take advantage of the invitation to come to Washington to support your written testimony on 27 October. . . ."

SUGGESTED CRITERIA FOR JUDGING PROJECTS WHICH
THE COMMISSION CAN EITHER SUPPORT OR ENDORSE

- I. That conceptually--the project:
 - a) responds to a significant cultural or information need of the nation.
 - b) contributes to the development of network services and to the increase in interlibrary communication across state lines.
 - c) implies active consideration or application of the principles of information science and new technologies.
 - d) meets a unique need not previously addressed.
 - e) is able to generate and maintain widespread understanding and public support of the library and information activities.

- II. That substantively--the proposed services, problem explorations or development of new methods will:
 - a) have a practical effect upon a broad class of users.
 - b) promote the sharing of resources or the fostering of other forms of interlibrary cooperation and communication.
 - c) support the principle of equal access to increasingly larger sources of data.
 - d) will stimulate or enhance the effectiveness of related programs.
 - e) represent a consolidated approach to a common need.
 - f) be useful to a large number of institutions.

- III. That administratively--the project:
 - a) has clear potential for providing a high cost/benefit return.
 - b) if it suggests implementation, it also implies a capability on the part of those ultimately affected to sustain the idea in practice.

- c) fits the Commission's charter or can be attributed to the charter of another funding agency.
- d) is an integral part of a phased plan.

*As revised after
6/15-16/72 Commission
meeting.*