

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Ninth Meeting
26 January 1973

Minutes of the meeting held in San Francisco, California, on 30 November and 1 December 1972, were approved.

Executive Director's Report

The completed Annual Report was distributed and discussed; avenues for public disbursement were suggested--among them NTIS.

The FY 1973 and 1974 budgets were discussed. The FY 1973 budget was vetoed and NCLIS is operating in FY 1973 on a continuing resolution at FY 1972 level, \$200,000. A supplemental appropriation may be necessary to carry NCLIS through the year. The FY 1974 budget, requested at \$750,000, was reduced by the Office of Management and Budget to \$406,000. An NCLIS appeal to President Nixon was denied.

PROGRAM REVIEW:

Users

Reports were made on the studies being conducted by the University of California at Berkeley and Ed Parker. Final drafts of both these documents will be received in the NCLIS office during the month of February. The following recommendation was discussed:

NCLIS sponsor a three-day conference on user needs for library and information services to be held at the Phipps Center at the University of Denver on 24, 25, and 26 May 1973.

After debating the potential strengths and weaknesses of the research papers as background material and the use of such a conference to further research on user needs, the Commission voted to support a users conference on 24, 25, and 26 May at the University of Denver in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Adequacies and Deficiencies

The staff reported that progress was being made in developing a full day of hearings for the Southeastern states on 7 March. Mrs. Moore renewed her request for oral testimony on the state aid program in Georgia. An evaluative abstract of the oral and written testimony from the Chicago hearing has been presented to the staff and will be made available to the Commission after editing.

Patterns of Organization

A brief report was made on the current Association of Research Libraries study being conducted by Rolland Stevens at the University of Illinois. The project is currently in the bibliographic search stage and further detail will be forthcoming at the Atlanta meeting. The following recommendation was then discussed:

NCLIS issue a request for proposals to determine the sequence of collecting journals and monographs and other materials to optimize the usefulness of a National Lending Library to potential borrowers at the lowest cost. Considerations of old versus new, of English language versus foreign and of book and journal versus other recorded material should be a part of the study.

Discussion focused on the merit of this recommendation in the light of limited resources. It was the consensus that no action be taken at this time.

At this point it was suggested that perhaps the Commission consider another staff recommendation, which reads:

NCLIS should ratify the Chairman's appointment of a Commission Committee to: (1) draft proposed legislation for a national library and information network; and (2) present the draft together with supporting rationale for Commission review at an early date.

This proposal was felt to be a valid interest for the Commission, and the Commission endorsed the Chairman's appointment of an NCLIS National Policy Committee to consist of Messrs. Becker, Chairman Burkhardt, Baker, Cuadra, Kemeny, and Mrs. Moore. The Committee was allocated \$5,000 for expenses.

Library of Congress Report

Dr. Burkhardt reported that the committee had been meeting with officials of the Library of Congress and had oral presentations from the Technical Services Division and the Reference Services Division. These would be followed with written reports to the Commission on the status of activities and recommendations for the future. It is the intention of the committee to confer with the major divisions of the Library of Congress prior to forming their recommendations.

Financing

Discussion was given to the Public Administration Service study. The PAS is currently conducting written interviews by mail to secure information. The final date for the submission of the report is April 1973. It was the recommendation of the staff that:

The survey in progress by PAS should be received and studied but not extended at this time. A decision on publication in any form should wait review.

In addition, the staff recommended:

Unless the studies now being completed are comprehensive, NCLIS should issue a request for proposals looking at public library finance systems in the light of modern public goods theory and newer financing mechanisms that will be needed to replace those that are no longer acceptable to society. The product requested would be a report that emphasizes the possible future role in library finances of state aid, federal aid, local taxes, and local non-tax monies and recommends a method of distributing public funds among library systems. Approximate cost: \$20,000 (1/2 man-year + expenses and overhead.)

It was agreed that this was a direction the Commission needed to investigate but that particular attention needed to be to other studies being conducted at this time including those through the Bureau of Libraries and Learning Resources, USOE. The Commission approved the above recommendation unanimously, and suggested the staff move ahead with a request for proposal in this area. In addition, the Chairman asked Dr. Cuadra to prepare a brief report for the Commission on the importance of the continuation of public library finance studies currently in progress. Additional attention was given to the potential of revenue sharing as opposed to the merits of categorical grants. A review by the staff indicated that libraries were not securing a large percentage of revenue sharing funds at this stage of development. Continuing attention will be paid to this development and written reports prepared for the Commission's attention.

Technology

- (1) The Commission's attention was called to a recent report prepared by Herman Fussler for the Sloan Foundation. This deals with the impact of technology on librarianship and the staff reported it to be one of the best papers in this area. As soon as the report is published, copies will be mailed to the Commission members.
- (2) Mr. Becker introduced to the Commission a proposal which dealt with the rapid expansion of the MARC data base. It was agreed that the project would be tabled until a check could be made by John Lorenz on the current development in this area within the Library of Congress. It was suggested Mr. Lorenz come back to the Commission with a recommendation.

Topics of Current Interest(1) Copyright

Mr. Stevens reported on his meeting with Mr. Brennan, Senior Staff Aide, Senate Committee on Patents, Trademark and Copyright, expressing the Commission's deep concern and interest with the copyright issue. A letter from Senator McClellan was also received.

(2) BLLR

Some attention was given to the program of the Bureau of Libraries and Learning Resources, USOE. It was felt that the projected President's budget would limit the categorical grants administered by this Bureau. The future of that bureau was discussed.

(3) International Activities in Librarianship

Brief mention was made of the developing need for information on international activities in librarianship and information science. It was recommended by the staff that Mr. Foster Morhardt of the Council on Library Resources and Mr. Scott Adams, Senior Staff Scientist, Biological Sciences Communication Project, The George Washington University, speak to the Commission in the near future on developing international activities. The staff reported on a recent development by the government of Western Germany to develop a "Society for Information and Documentation" to be headquartered in Frankfurt/Main and to be funded in an amount of \$530 million marks.

(4) FY 1973-74 Scheduled Meetings

The meetings scheduled for FY 1973 and 1974 were presented, discussed, and approved as follows:

March 7, 8 and 9, 1973	-	Atlanta, Georgia
April 19 and 20	-	Washington, D.C.
May 31 and June 1	-	New York, New York
October 3, 4 and 5	-	Boston, Massachusetts
December 6, 7	-	Washington, D.C.
February 7 and 8, 1974	-	Washington, D.C.
April 24, 25 and 26	-	San Antonio, Texas
May 30 and 31	-	Washington, D.C.