

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Tenth Meeting

8 and 9 March 1973

Minutes

Members present: Becker, Dunlap, Lerner, Mrs. Moore, Lorenz (for Mumford), Miss Scott, Velde, Zipf, and Burkhardt (Chairman)

Staff present : Stevens, Swartz, and Mrs. Reszetar

Also present : Miss Charlotte Bowman

The meeting was convened in the Georgia Room of the Atlanta American Motor Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Chairman opened the meeting with remarks regarding a recent visit he and the Executive Director had at the White House. Though there was a thorough discussion of the Commission's activities, the Chairman hoped that future contacts would be made at a higher level within the Executive Office.

In the financial report, Mrs. Reszetar reported that the continuing resolution had not yet been signed by the President. If signed, the resolution provides that the Commission would be funded at either the House or Senate figure, whichever is lower. Since the Commission is funded at the \$406,000 level in both cases, it is assumed we will receive that amount. Fiscal 1974 budget hearings have not yet been scheduled but should be held by May. The Commission's staff continues to make contacts with other Washington agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Council on Library Resources for the possibility of cooperative funding programs.

Program Review

Users--Mr. Becker presented the plan for the User Needs Conference to be held at the University of Denver on the 24, 25 and 26 of May. The Conference has been narrowed in scope and will involve 15-20 participants; each charged with identifying information needs and library service objectives for a particular sub-group of users. Each invitee will be asked to write a paper prior to the Conference, participate in the Denver Conference, and edit his/her paper based on Conference participation. Each conferee will be supplied with the background papers already written for the Commission. Resulting from the Conference will be a preliminary list of user needs and revised library service objectives which could be incorporated into the annual report and perhaps published separately.

Mr. Becker reported that the Bourne study (Institute of Library Research at the University of California at Berkeley) had been completed and that a preliminary draft of the Parker paper had been received. Discussion focused on how these and future papers published by the Commission should be released to the public. Two routes will be followed. Material that is not suitable for official sanction by the Commission will be marked "Prepared for NCLIS" and released through the contracting agency. Material prepared for NCLIS which deserves publication through official channels will be marked with the Commission's logo and released through the Government Printing Office and other government channels. It was the decision of the Commission that the Bourne paper should be released by the contractor.

Adequacies and Deficiencies Committee

Mr. Lorenz, Chairman, reported that work continued on summaries of the various hearings held in Chicago, San Francisco, and Atlanta. The report will serve as the basis of discussion for the Adequacies and Deficiencies Committee. Mr. Swartz added that a preliminary report would be available at the April meeting with a complete report on the three hearings available for the Commission in late May.

Mrs. Moore suggested that a summary of these results be made available to Congress and to the President. The Commission agreed that the New York meeting on May 31-June 1 should include a full morning of testimony from various groups in the Greater New York area. The Bell Telephone Research Laboratories was suggested as one addition.

Library of Congress Committee

Dr. Burkhardt, Chairman, reported that the Library of Congress Committee will meet for a wrap-up session on 23 March. At that time, all reports prepared for the Committee from the Library of Congress will be available and the Committee will set priorities and recommendations which will be submitted to the full Commission at the April meeting.

ARL Contract

Dean Dunlap reported that the ARL contract is in progress and a preliminary draft will be available for the 19 April meeting. This report on the feasibility study of centralized and regionalized interlibrary loan centers may have recommendations which would merit further investigation by the Commission.

Finances

Mr. Stevens reported that the PAS report should also be available by the 19 April meeting. At this point, questionnaires have been mailed to librarians and financial officers in various sections of the country and a compilation of the results is being made.

Technology

Dr. Herman Fussler's report on library technology for the Sloane Foundation was discussed. It was hoped that Dr. Fussler would be willing to expand certain of his recommendations into research proposals for the Commission but, at this point, he has declined to do so. The staff recommended a study on the further application of computer communications and micro-photography to libraries. Mr. Stevens pointed out that there is no current review in the state of the art in this particular area and such a review would be helpful to the Commission's deliberations. After some discussion the proposal was deferred.

Human Resources

The staff presented a proposal to develop a national network for continuing education which would involve all interested institutions, agencies and professional organizations. The Commission would serve as a catalyst to develop the framework and content of such a network but would not participate on an on-going basis. The Commission approved the project with the understanding that it would include paraprofessionals as well as professionals and that a higher contract cost figure would be supplied by the 19 April meeting.

After the program review, the status of current Request for Proposals was discussed. These include the National Policy Study for \$5,000; the Denver User Needs Conference for \$23,000; the next step in the study of Library Finances at \$20,000; and the study of the Continuing Education Network, cost yet to be determined. It was agreed that a complete set of Request for Proposals would be available by the 19 April meeting. Special attention was given to the possibility of a research grant to study the problems in making large data bases in various research libraries compatible with the MARC data base at the Library of Congress. It was agreed that this was something the Commission should pursue and the staff agreed they would prepare the needed background material.

Committee Reports

Public Information--Mr. Lerner discussed the television/newspaper/radio publicity received in Atlanta. He felt the Commission had received good coverage in the Atlanta area and acknowledged the help and assistance of the Atlanta Public Library. Included in the public relations was a book-mark release given out by the Atlanta Public Library during the week prior to the Commission's visit to that city.

Copyright--Mr. Goland gave an updated report on the status of the copyright issued and urged the Commission's closer involvement with this particular issue. After serious discussion it was felt that the issue was too complicated and too well developed at this point for the Commission's involvement. It was agreed that if the issue were delayed, and the Commission had time to make an extensive study, NCLIS should definitely enter this issue.

Final discussion was devoted to the Commission's position on the recent elimination of Federal funds for libraries. After much deliberation, it was agreed that:

- (1) The Commission, in its deliberations at San Francisco in late November/early December, had already taken a position on revenue sharing versus categorical grants.
- (2) The best approach, at this particular time, would be to continue to take a positive look at the long-range alternatives to library organization and funding.
- (3) It was agreed that the Commission should release two press notices. One will be a summary of the recommendations and criticisms received by the Commission in the Atlanta hearing and the other a report on the long-range deliberations and plans of the Commission.

The two-day session ended with a progress report by the Executive Director, which included reports on contacts with 102 Congressmen.