

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

12th Meeting

31 May and 1 June 1973

New York, New York

Members present: Aines, Baker (5/31 only), Becker, Cuadra, Dunlap, Goland, Kemeny, Lerner, Lorenz (for Mumford), Scott, Velde, Zipf and Vice-Chairman Moore

Staff present : Reszetar, Stevens and Swartz

The meeting was held in the New York Public Library Trustees Room, New York City, New York.

The agenda was adopted and minutes of the two previous meetings were approved.

Presentations by several groups followed:

Messrs. Couper, Cory and Holmgren spoke of the current fiscal and developmental programs of the New York Public Library. They pointed out the need for recognition and funding of major independent research libraries such as N.Y.P.L. on a national basis. Their collections, sometimes unique, are of national importance and their using public comes from all fifty states.

Mr. John Humphry, New York State Librarian, gave a broad picture of state library development and the need for cooperative funding and regional development. He spoke of the state's role, of the academic libraries' function and of the outreach programs of public libraries.

Mr. Stanley Ransom, President of the New York Public Library Association, spoke of the plans and problems of public libraries in New York state. His view was that more outreach programs cannot be funded locally and that cooperative programs plus state and Federal funding will be needed to further extend services.

Dr. Adnan Waly, President, Personal Communications, Inc., Stamford, Connecticut, presented and demonstrated his personal microfiche reader. Six hundred pages of script or pictorial material on an 8"x10" film sheet are read with film motion of 1/10" through a special multiple lens systems.

Several members of the ALA Task Force on CATV in libraries presented a demonstration of possible uses of television in libraries. The presentation was vigorously questioned by the Commission.

The Executive Director presented his report for the period between the April 19 meeting in Washington and this meeting. The following areas were discussed:

1. The requests for proposals prepared by the staff and made available to potential bidders. RFP's were sent out in five areas: public library funding, continuing education for library-associated personnel, regional resource and bibliography centers, microform acceptance by library users, and community information center development. Twenty-five proposals had been received and were to be evaluated before making awards. After considerable discussion it was decided that a Commission ad hoc committee would assist the staff in proposal review and decision. The committee, appointed by the Vice-Chairman, was Mr. Aines, Dr. Cuadra and Mr. Lorenz. Initial screening is to be done by the staff with final decision to be made by Commission members in conjunction with staff.
2. The Executive Director summarized the current situation on Federal library funding and the future of the U.S. Office of Education's Bureau of Libraries and Learning Resources. The current view is that Congress will restore some of the Library Services and Construction Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the Higher Education Act funding to the budget and that BLLR will have a continuing program in fiscal year 1974.
3. The Executive Director reported on the visit of Oleg Mikhailav (UNESCO) in the interest of a 1974 inter-governmental conference on documentation, libraries and archives. Commission members were given reasons for tempering their enthusiasm for such a conference because of potential substantive conflict with UNISIST activities and a 1974 IFLA conference in Washington, D.C.
4. The Executive Director reported on the delay in the scheduling of the testimony for the White House Conference on Libraries (Senate Joint Resolution 40). Testimony will be rescheduled when Dr. Burkhardt returns from his current visit to Italy and China.

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The Friday meeting focused on current activities and future directions for Commission work.

Carlos Cuadra expressed his sense of urgency for more Commission effort in the development of plans for the nation's libraries and information services. His statement was followed by a discussion of some of the Commission's current contracts and activities and a discussion of the immediate possibilities for future contracts using fiscal year 1973 money. It was moved and passed that "the Commission allocate up to \$100,000 to provide supporting service to the Policy Committee to further the securing of information relative to or in preparation for our national network plan." It was understood that this motion was to be implemented, if possible, by the staff through a contract. If such action is impossible, the staff was authorized to proceed with contract awards based on the RFP's sent out and the proposals received.

Dr. Cuadra reviewed the User Needs Conference held in Denver in May. The report of the conference will be published by the Commission when the final papers are received, edited and supplied with an introduction.

Mr. Becker reviewed the third draft of the national planning document and the comments he had received from his committee members. Suggestions for the document were given to Mr. Becker. It was made clear that work on this document will constitute the number one priority for the Commission. A committee combining the members of the Library of Congress Committee and the National Planning Committee and chaired by Mr. Becker will meet in Washington to discuss the ways in which the document can be "fleshed out" and made known to select members of the information community. This action looks forward to public announcement in the fall after the October NCLIS meeting.

The Committee on Adequacies and Deficiencies reported on its recent work in the light of the discussion of a National Planning Document. The Commission priorities--information needs, patterns of organization, technology, human resources, financial and legal resources were reaffirmed as editorially amended to conform to the planning document.

Plans for the Boston hearing (October 3, 1973) were reviewed and approved. Once again there will be a major effort to get testimony from users and to avoid repetitive testimony. Summary of previous testimony will be sent to potential witnesses in the interest of obtaining new information or data.

There was brief discussion of a staff document on school library financing. The Commission agreed to ask the Office of Education to obtain current information on public elementary and secondary schools that do not have libraries.

The meeting concluded with a colloquy between the staff and the Commission regarding authority for action and the expectations of staff and members.