

13th meeting

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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FREDERICK H. BURKHARDT
Chairman

CHARLES H. STEVENS
Executive Director

4-5 October 1973

Parker House

Boston, Massachusetts

Members Present: Aines, Becker, Cuadra, Dunlap, Goland, Lerner, Lorenz
(for Mumford), Moore, Scott, Velde and Burkhardt (Chairman)

Staff Present : Cranwell, Reszetar, Stevens and Swartz

Guests Present : Members-designate Casey and Wu; Robert Wedgeworth
(ALA), and Richard Hays (USOE)

Dr. Burkhardt, presiding, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as distributed. Mrs. Moore, recently reappointed to a second term ending in 1978, was re-elected Vice Chairman for one year. The two new members-designate of the Commission, Mr. Daniel Casey and Mrs. Julia Lee Wu, were introduced and welcomed.

Regional Hearing

The hearing for the New England states held in Boston on October 3 was discussed with a view toward improving the effectiveness of the San Antonio hearing in April 1974. Staff will prepare a layman's letter of invitation to attract the non-professional to participate. Members will redouble their efforts to use personal contacts with government and business leaders to obtain their testimony. Mrs. Moore and Mr. Goland were asked to supply names of users to be invited. Mr. Casey will provide a list of trustees to be invited. Mr. Goland will attempt to arrange for a Chicano group to discuss bilingual library needs. It was agreed that the program document and the other materials supplied to witnesses had been useful in obtaining well-directed testimony. The staff was thanked for the considerable effort of preparing for the hearing. Mr. Lerner will assist Mr. Goland with the public relations work for San Antonio.

National Program of Library and Information Service

The main business of the meeting was a discussion of the national program document and the work done on it since the New York meeting in May 1973. Dr. Burkhardt appointed a new committee (Baker, Burkhardt, Cuadra, Dunlap, Kemeny, Lorenz, Moore, and Becker, chairman) in June to carry forward this activity. Swartz and Becker reported on the initial committee meeting held in August and on subsequent actions. The emphasis has been on:

1. The writing of a short version of the program "working paper." This "October version" has been distributed to NCLIS members.
2. The writing of an appropriate speech text for Commission members to use as a basis for discussing the program in public.
3. The discussion of the "working paper" with a few selected individuals.
4. The discussion of the shorter version with many more people-- particularly library and information groups.
5. The collection of comments and reactions prior to rewriting.
6. Planning for extending the program document activity through one or more contracts, program solicitations, or consultant studies.

The committee reported on contacts made with executive personnel in library associations and on the character of the tentative responses-- most of them friendly--that have emerged. A schedule of future contacts running through the middle of December was given. Press contacts and plans were summarized.

Mr. Becker reviewed in detail the substance of the program document and gave his interpretation of its meaning. In the discussion of the document it was made clear that further clarification is required. The technical-scientific tone of the document does not satisfy the majority of librarians whose orientation is toward the humanities, services to children, services to the remotely located. The ideas must be embraced in language that serves these and other needs. There must be clarification of what the program is intended to cover and what it omits. The "absolute" must be tempered with the doable. Larger issues of national scope must be cast in terms that have local application. Dunlap articulated several criticisms of the program document that he felt must be corrected to bring the writing into consonance with the program description made by Becker. He also called for solutions to our national programs that are based on standards and simple direct approaches rather than on computer communication linkages and monolithic storage units.

Goland pointed out that settling the detail of operation of the national program is not the job of an advisory/planning agency. Commitment of details of computer or communication or agency configuration is much less important than commitment to principles of operation and results to be achieved. Burkhardt spoke of the requirement to develop the specifications in the working paper sufficiently that a contractor can "answer" the unanswered questions and "flesh out" the necessary details. Burkhardt discussed his preliminary conversations with

Lee Burchinal, Fred Cole and Ronald Berman. Burchinal had suggested that a working paper--a back-up document for legislative suggestions--must be formulated by a group contracted for the task. Goland responded that only the Commission working through staff can set policy and urged early contacts with OMB to enlist their aid. Whether we are planning a network or preparing a program was debated. Aines pointed out that the government must be shown that it must deal with a very important issue or nothing will occur. The government (Executive and Legislative) will require facts and figures. It was concluded that more effort in development of the back-up paper, the program document, is required. The revised drafts, as they appear, and Mr. Dunlap's comments will be circulated to all.

Contract Progress

- A. Catholic University is proceeding very quickly with the preparation of their plan for investigation of continuing education. Documents are being sent to OMB for clearance and they will soon be in use. Regular meetings of the advisory committee are being held.
- B. Government Studies and Systems is working on future patterns for public library funding. Their study is to provide a set of recommendations for Commission action. Rodney Lane, their principal investigator, has appointed the required committee of advisors and the work is proceeding. Two meetings between NCLIS and GSS have been held. The project is not to be a bibliographic compilation nor a statistical study but a "think piece" with solid recommendations.
- C. Westat, Inc. is examining the feasibility of regional bibliographic and research centers, their location, cost, operation, and coverage. Eugene Palmour, principal investigator, expects to provide specific recommendations based on their study. The work is proceeding and the Westat advisory committee has held a meeting to review the progress. A first report will be mailed on 1 November 1973. Carlos Cuadra expressed a desire to meet once with contractor.

There was a discussion of the ways in which the Commission committees could assist in the contract review process. It was agreed that the Commission members should be informed of progress by staff and make their input through staff. Review of progress should take place regularly but the committee should not be gathered to be involved until an interim report is in hand. Finally, the committee can: (1) suggest necessary changes of direction in the work itself; (2) review the preliminary drafts of reports; (3) decide whether the contract has been fulfilled; and (4) agree on publication of the results.

White House Conference

Dr. Burkhardt reviewed his appearance before Senator Pell in support of Senate Joint Resolution 40. NCLIS, if the Resolution is enacted, will be the operating agency for the Conference to be held in 1976. Dr. Burkhardt pointed out that Federal funds would be needed for state conferences in order that they have some guidance toward the national meeting. Mr. Ford has introduced and Mr. Brademas will introduce a nearly-identical resolution in the House. There seems to be no indication of the President's attitude toward the White House Conference. Ann Armstrong may be the best contact in the White House. NCLIS must support the idea and get the most benefit that can be distilled from it.

Denver Conference

Dr. Cuadra outlined the progress in developing the report of the conference. Difficulties in getting the papers, in getting an edited text, in getting an introduction written have blocked the instant appearance of the volume. It is now one and one-half months behind schedule and no publisher has been identified. It may have to be the Government Printing Office. The committee on the conference was given the authority to certify the text for publication without recourse to the Commission.

Virginia Mathews will prepare for the Commission a study of the next steps in assessing user needs. Her paper will be distributed in advance of the December meeting and discussed in Washington.

Other Current Issues

National Book Committee (of 35) has asked NCLIS to advise the President and the Congress of the deleterious effects of the withdrawal of Federal Library funds. Discussion led to unanimous adoption of the following statement on funding as a Commission Resolution:

"In their effort to work toward improved library and information services, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science has closely monitored changing library funding patterns including revenue sharing. Recent reports including studies of the U.S. Department of Treasury and other governmental organizations and professional associations indicate that libraries are last in funding among the eight priority areas eligible for general revenue sharing. Though individual libraries have benefited from revenue sharing, the overall funding pattern has provided only a small fraction of the amounts available in earlier years from categorical funds.

"More important, because the funding pattern is geared to local city government it does not recognize the pattern of local and regional library systems which have developed and, therefore, works against the effectiveness and cost saving of interlibrary cooperation in many instances.

"Therefore, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science reconfirms its position taken at the November 30 -December 1, 1972, meeting in San Francisco that revenue sharing will not solve the long-range funding problems of public libraries and that it is not a viable alternative.

"The National Commission views libraries and information centers as a national knowledge resource to be sustained and integrated for all citizens to use in the course of their personal and economic pursuits. The Commission looks toward a funding pattern which recognizes the local, state and Federal responsibility for this resource."

The Library of Congress report completed last spring by the Commission will be edited for release without delay. In keeping with the recommendations in that report the Commission adopted the following position regarding the Library of Congress National Program on Acquisitions and Cataloging. There was a short discussion of the Library of Congress RECON program.

"The output of serious recorded informational material in books and other formats in many languages has increased dramatically in recent years and this increase is expected to continue. Access to the world's knowledge as it is recorded is vital to the United States and to industrial, governmental, social, environmental, educational, business and scholarly interests within this nation. It is essential, therefore, to expand and improve the national program for collecting, cataloging and making available the world-wide production of recorded knowledge. A Library of Congress activity, the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging (NPAC), has already saved the nation's scholarly libraries from an inability to collect comprehensively in important foreign areas. It has also saved them from the incalculable expense of duplicate, repetitive cataloging of these materials. The Library of Congress must be provided with the means to further this important work.

"The National Commission on Libraries and Information Sciences commends to the Congress of the United States the NPAC as the best available cost-effective method for providing access to the world-wide information required for present and future generations of United States' citizens and scholars."

School Library Funding was reviewed in the framework of the staff study presented in June. The staff was authorized to continue to gather information in this area as opportunities to do so arise.

Copyright was discussed at length. The Senate Copyright Committee hearings were reviewed and the decision was reached that the Copyright Committee will produce a statement or report for study at the December meeting. The report may provide a position or suggest a way to do a sample study that will lead to a position paper.

Senator Magnuson's letter to Dr. Burkhardt regarding studies leading to future library legislation was read and discussed in the light of Mr. John Veblen's meeting with Dr. Burkhardt. Mr. Veblen, a Seattle lawyer, is pushing for NCLIS to rush its work toward new legislation and, meanwhile, to be more active regarding current policies. Dr. Burkhardt is eager to keep Mr. Veblen's interest but not to rush our work unduly.

Presentations

Mr. Robert Wedgeworth, Executive Director of the American Library Association, briefed the Commission on the ALA position regarding Federal Library Funding which is that categorical funding should continue for the present. He reinforced this position with citations of need in various states. He asked for more in the way of leadership by NCLIS to stop the erosion of current library programs. He offered the help of ALA to support the work of NCLIS. Specific plans were mentioned for a staff visit by NCLIS staff at ALA.

Mr. Richard Hays, Assistant Commissioner, USOE, Bureau of Libraries and Learning Resources, spoke of the current plans within his agency.

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on fiscal matters. Of the \$406,000 allocated for FY 1973 the Commission spent all but one percent which was returned to the Treasurer. Hearings for the FY 1974 budget (also \$406,000) were completed in the Senate before Senator Cotton. While the NCLIS budget is not likely to be cut or singled out for individual attention, it will probably be vetoed by the President since it is attached to the HEW appropriations bill which exceeds the amount requested. In all likelihood, the Commission will operate during most of fiscal 1974 on a series of continuing resolutions under which NCLIS will have \$406,000 parceled out to it on a quarterly basis.

The fiscal 1975 budget estimate prepared for the Office of Management and Budget seeks full authorized funding, \$750,000, and six added staff persons. The presentation projected studies, contracts, Commission expense and publication costs totalling the entire amount. OMB did not appear to be receptive to the request for full funding.

Stevens reported on the progress in writing the Annual Report. It is to be ready for the printer by 1 December. He also reported on recent publicity for the Commission appearing in the press in several states and on his recent visits to the University Microfilms (Xerox) and Information Dynamics. He spoke of his contacts with other library agencies during the summer. Finally, he reported that he will resign as Executive Director at a time during the next several months when a replacement can be found.

Kemeny - Zipf

Staff was asked to prepare a resolution of thanks to members whose terms have ended. Lerner was asked to prepare a suitable memento of service.