



**National Commission  
on Libraries and Information Science**

MINUTES

Peachtree Plaza Hotel  
Atlanta, Georgia

June 11 and 12, 1981

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Helmut Alpers; Gordon M. Ambach; Robert W. Burns, Jr.; Carlos A. Cuadra; Paulette H. Holahan; Clara S. Jones; Francis Keppel; Bessie B. Moore; Frances H. Naftalin; Philip A. Sprague; Margaret S. Warden; William J. Welsh; and Charles Benton, Presiding

**STAFF PRESENT :** Toni Carbo Bearman; Douglas S. Price; Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar; Ruby O. Woods Robinson; Gerald J. Sophar; Carl C. Thompson; and Barbara Lee Whiteleather, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS PRESENT:** George Genader, President, Special Libraries Association; Eileen Cooke, Director, ALA Washington Office; James Dodd, Past President, Special Libraries Association; Ted Johnson, Emory University; Johnnie Givens, Metrics Research Corporation, Atlanta; Elizabeth Cole, Public Library Consultant for Library Development, Atlanta State Library; Marilyn Gell, Former Director, WHCLIS

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Neither Dr. Tate nor Mrs. Gross was able to attend the meeting.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Commission meeting held April 9 and 10, 1981, were reviewed. The following correction was requested by Dr. Moore:

Page 17 - Personnel Committee Report, 8th line. Delete the word, "first," so that sentence reads: "It was decided that the elected Vice Chairman would be the responsible agent for the evaluation, as Chairman of the Personnel Committee."

It was MOVED by Gordon Ambach, and severally seconded, that the Minutes of the April 9 and 10, 1981, Commission meeting be approved, as corrected by Bessie B. Moore. Passed unanimously.

### Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, the Chairman stated, "During the ten years of the Commission, there have been two 'needs assessment' exercises: (1) the National Program Document development, with the holding of regional hearings; and (2) the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The commitment we made to organize the White House Conference around user needs was an important leap forward."

### WHCLIS Resolutions

Dr. Bearman then stated that, as a result of the last meeting of the Commission, "A Guide to Implementing the WHCLIS Resolutions," was prepared. "There are delegates waiting for the Commission to respond to each and every resolution, and we must be reactive. For a resolution to be meaningful, it must be translated into a program commitment and into the budget," she said. Dr. Bearman suggested, and the Members agreed, to review the WHCLIS Resolutions one by one to decide:

- (1) If the Commission is in agreement with the resolution statement;
- (2) What action, if any, should be taken; and
- (3) Which NCLIS Committee should the resolution be referred to for action.

It was agreed that, unless otherwise indicated, each resolution would be referred to the Legislative/Public Awareness Committee for consideration in the development of specifications for legislation.

Dr. Bearman outlined for the Members of the Commission the four major roles of the Commission, as she perceives them:

- Resident expert for the Federal Government;
- Honest broker, serving to bring together different agencies and branches of the government;
- Forum for the library and information community; and
- Catalyst.

The decision of the Members with respect to the WHCLIS Resolutions is summarized below:

### Al--The First Amendment and Public Issues

Issue: Fee vs. Free - (A) Cost vs. value vs. charge (and subsidy); and (B) Should NCLIS deal with?

The Commission accepts A1 in spirit and expresses concern relative to the fee vs. free issue. Referred for inclusion in specifications with requirement that "free" be defined and that many libraries need more background (e.g., shared experience, research, education, etc.) before they can serve as Information and Referral Centers.

#### A2--National Information Policy

Issue: "Whereas, no citizen should be restricted from access to information by the imposition of fees," too vague.  
 "Information" is not defined (e.g., does it include newspapers and magazines?).

Reaffirm the tradition of local control over the selection and purchase of library materials. Define "local control."

Items 1-4 to be referred to the Legislative Committee with caveats that NCLIS does not endorse concept of a "National Information Policy," and that item 1 be clarified in terms of "fee vs. free" issue.

#### A3--National Policy for Free Access

Issue: Right to access without fee.

Referred to the Legislative Committee with caveats that the Commission does not endorse concept of a "National Information Policy," and that "fee vs. free" issue be clarified.

#### A4--Federal Funding of Literacy Programs

Issue: Is this an appropriate role for libraries? Can librarians be effective?

Local responsibility is not included in resolution and should be.

There was a formal motion by the Commission not to refer Resolution A4, Literacy, to the Legislative/Public Awareness Committee.

In favor: Robert Burns, Jr.; Carlos Cuadra; Philip Sprague

Opposed : Helmut Alpers; Gordon Ambach; Paulette Holahan;  
 Clara Jones; Francis Keppel; Frances Naftalin;  
 Margaret Warden

Abstained: Bessie Moore; William Welsh

#### A5--Access to Library and Information Services

Referred to the Legislative Committee, with "equal" definition question.

A6--Public Awareness

Referred to the Legislative Committee, with last two "Be It Further Resolved" deleted. However, this does not mean Federal funds should not be used.

A7--Intellectual Freedom and Contemporary Writing

Referred to the Legislative Committee. The Commission strongly endorses intellectual freedom.

Note: Delete next to last "Be It Further Resolved."

A8--Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

Referred to the Legislative Committee. The Commission strongly endorses intellectual freedom.

B2--A National Library Act

Dealt with by NCLIS in its program for development of specifications for legislation--not necessarily "a national library act"--and through NCLIS assistance with Congressional hearings.

B3--Federal Resources for Library and Information Services

Timing is wrong to talk about brand new legislative initiatives.

B9--Federal Funding Formulas

Approved and referred to the Legislative Committee.

C9--Preservation of Library and Information Resources/Materials

The Commission endorses preservation.

C12--Telecommunication Networks

Any implications in resolution for capital investments for libraries to be considered by Legislative Committee. Resolution to be deferred until NCLIS discussion of national information policy issue.

D1--Special Constituencies: Library Services to the Disabled and Hearing-Impaired

Postponed until October; referred to William Welsh for opinion; request reaction from Secretary of Education.

A10--Access to Information

Referred to NCLIS' own work in this area.

A11--Access to Public Agency Information

Postponed until Public/Private Sector Task Force report; after report, staff to review to determine if further Commission action is required.

C7--Technology and Federal Programs

NCLIS has reviewed and taken due note.

C5--How to Effectively Use Computer Technology

Endorsed by the National Commission.

C3--School Libraries

Endorsed by the National Commission; however, delete second and fifth "Be It Further Resolved." Change "Congress" to "States." Delete reference to "Federal." Not referred to Legislative Committee.

C16--Library Skills Instruction

Endorsed by the National Commission. Not referred to the Legislative Committee.

D4--Minority Needs

Referred to NCLIS Cultural Minorities Task Force.

A12--Basic Legal Information

Referred to NCLIS proposed Committee on Law Libraries.

A13--Public Library Association Mission Statement

Noted and postponed pending NCLIS review of ALA Public Library Mission Statement.

B4--Archives and Historical Records

Endorsed by the National Commission. Executive Director to draft letter to National Historical and Public Records Commission.

B10--Training, Research, and Development

Noted; Commission should continue to press for a research and development program.

B11--Preservation and Use of Research Collections

Endorsed by the National Commission. However, resolution should be broadened to include other techniques, such as optical video disc, new information storage techniques, de-acidification, etc.

B6--Pricing of Basic Federal Government Publications

Referred to Public/Private Sector Task Force; postponed until final report of Task Force.

B7--State and Local Funding for Library and Information Services

NCLIS to write letter asking states to consider resolutions considered to be state/local.

Mrs. Warden, Chair of the Legislative Committee, stated that the referred resolutions will be sent to appropriate library/information association requesting feedback. The letter will go to the Secretary of the department or agency from the NCLIS Chairman.

In summary, it was determined that the Commission should consider the following policy issues:

- Fee vs. Free
- Role of Federal Government (State and/or Local)
- Intellectual Freedom
- National Information Policy(ies) (Do we want one or not?)
- Preservation
- Resource Sharing/Networking
- Education, Training and Research

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, July 12, 1981

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

WHCLIS Resolutions (Continued)

The Members resumed discussion of the WHCLIS Resolutions.

F1--Ad Hoc Committee for WHCLIS: Planning and Monitoring

Implemented by WHCLIST Committee.

F2--Youth Representation

Definition of "youth" needed. This resolution was recognized by the Commission and duly noted.

### F3--Future White House Conference

It was MOVED by William Welsh, and seconded by Robert Burns, Jr., that the Commission is in favor of a future White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The motion carried with Carlos Cuadra abstaining.

### F6--Task Force on National Information Policy

The Commission discussed instituting a Task Force on National Information Policy.

### Public/Private Sector Task Force Report

Dr. Cuadra, a member of the Public/Private Sector Task Force, updated the Members on the progress of the task force and final report. It was reported that the task force has held its last meeting, and that the third draft report (60 single pages, without appendices) was circulated to members of the task force. A three-person editorial committee was assigned to edit the final report. The report is expected to be ready for presentation to Members of the Commission at the October Commission meeting for formal acceptance. Dr. Cuadra further reported that there are interesting results contained in the report. Effort is being made, he said, to make the report a readable and understandable product and not too technical.

Mr. Benton asked, "After approval of the report, how do we implement the recommendations? Has thought been given to the principles contained therein?" In reply, Dr. Cuadra proposed a full day's discussion of the report and implementation of its recommendations. This suggestion met with approval of the Commission.

Dr. Bearman informed the Members that Mr. Neal Gregory has prepared a comparison of the Paperwork Reduction Act and the recommendations of the task force for use by the Office of Management and Budget.

### NCLIS Planning/Futures Committee Report

Dr. Cuadra, Chair, Planning/Futures Committee, reported that the Committee met and discussed a timing schedule for planning and ways for this Committee to relate to the work of the Finance/Fund Raising Committee. "It seems like each NCLIS Committee is involved in planning," he said. One suggestion of the Planning Committee was that there be only one committee dealing with money and planning. This idea needs to be discussed between the Planning/Futures and Finance/Fund Raising Committees.

Dr. Cuadra also reported that the Planning/Futures Committee will attempt to screen desirable projects, asking NCLIS staff to clearly describe the project and to present a cost estimate. The proposed project will then be presented to the full Commission for decision. "The Planning/Futures Committee must work out a mechanism for working with each other between meetings, perhaps through teleconferencing, terminal-to-terminal, etc., Dr. Cuadra urged.

Mr. Benton reminded the Members that all decisions on projects involving money and staff time are voted on by the Commission as a whole. Dr. Moore then reminded the Members that the Commission can overrule any decision made by a Committee.

Dr. Cuadra suggested a time table of March 1982 and June 1982 for decisions to be made with little leeway for "targets of opportunity," as suggested by Dr. Moore. Dr. Bearman reminded the Members that the Commission, by law, can accept outside gifts and funds.

#### NCLIS Personnel Committee Report

Dr. Moore, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported that the "Performance Elements" for the Executive Director's evaluation were reviewed by the Committee. Several constructive comments were made and duly noted. Dr. Moore agreed that a time table for review is needed and assumed responsibility for establishing one. The final "Performance Elements" will be provided to the Commission as a whole.

To better enable the Members to understand the many and varied contacts the Executive Director has with other government agencies, library/information communities, private industries, etc., a list detailing each face-to-face contact was developed and distributed.

Dr. Moore reiterated that the Executive Director evaluates the staff; however, the Personnel committee will receive copies of the staff's Performance Standards.

Mrs. Naftalin stated that she attended the ALL Association Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in May. Dr. Bearman addressed the Conference, "and her talk left the audience feeling uplifted," Mrs. Naftalin stated. "This means something for the whole library and information field, and it is certainly important for the Commission to have such representation," Mrs. Naftalin pointed out. Dr. Moore added her praise of Dr. Bearman's performance and stated that she has received numerous letters complimenting Dr. Bearman. One letter, in particular, stated, "We wish there were more bureaucrats around like Dr. Bearman," Dr. Moore noted.

When asked to comment, Dr. Bearman stated, "The next three months on the job will be different from the last six months--they will be much more 'stay at home.'" Dr. Bearman informed the Members that she is busily learning what people in the library and information field are interested in, what they think the Commission should be doing, and what impact its work has had thus far.

#### Community Information and Referral Task Force Report

Dr. Jones, Chair of the Community Information and Referral Task Force, informed the Members that the Task Force is now one-year old. "It is an excellent task force containing knowledgeable people in library and information services," she said.

Dr. Jones further reported that the Bell Telephone Company has begun community information and referral services. Dr. Jones has developed a "How To Do It" reference book which, she reported, "the librarians' resisted, but the public ate up." The librarians feel it is a social worker's job and not theirs. It is a matter of selling the idea to librarians; bring about direction, standards, and know-how to the people so that community information will not suffer confusion, Dr. Jones urged. Mrs. Warden requested that the text book be included as part of the final report of the task force.

Dr. Cuadra added that the task force is questioning whether it is their job to help strengthen libraries in their role of community information and referral. Quoting from a letter to the task force members from Robert Croneberger, Chairman of the Task Force, Dr. Cuadra read: "There is no doubt in my mind that the dissemination of Federal information and the citizen's access to it is a major issue which needs study. It does not, however, belong in the Community Information and Referral Task Force.

The last meeting budgeted for the task force will be held July 27 and 28, 1981, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Commission will invite Mr. Croneberger to present the recommendations of the group at the October Commission meeting.

#### Cultural Minorities Task Force Report

Mrs. Woods Robinson briefed the Members on the upcoming cultural minorities hearings to be held during the American Library Association Conference in San Francisco, California. Members wishing to hear testimony are invited to serve on the panel, along with members of the task force.

#### NCLIS Information Brochure

The NCLIS Information Brochure is in process and should be completed this fall. Ms. Sue Roschwald of Ruder and Finn has major responsibility for the publication, with guidance and input from NCLIS staff. Approximate cost for the publication is \$2,500. Galleys should be available for Commission review at the October meeting.

#### Finance/Fund Raising Committee Report

In order to better control the travel budget, a "travel policy" was prepared and distributed for comment. Comments should be submitted and the topic will be discussed at the NCLIS October meeting.

#### 1981 Budget

The 1981 budget was accepted as submitted; no changes were required.

1982 Budget

Dr. Bearman explained that the six-month time study performed by each staff member has been included in specific topic areas in the 1981 budget layout. Dr. Bearman also pointed out that, as yet, the requested technical amendment has not been submitted for approval by Congress.

After discussion, proposed programs for 1982 included:

- Revision of the Library Services and Construction Act
- Role of Depository Libraries
- Improvement of Dissemination of Federal Information
- Combatting Functional Illiteracy
- Resource Sharing

The Members of the Commission agreed to consider the following study areas:

- Rural America
- Elderly
- International
- Fee vs. Free (Issue Paper)

Proposed Programs for 1982-83

It was agreed that the Planning/Futures Committee would meet in San Francisco, California, during the ALA Conference to review potential program areas, projects, issues and topics of potential relevance to NCLIS. The primary purpose of this review is to provide guidance to the Commission on the most appropriate areas or activities in which to use Commission resources in fiscal year 1982 and fiscal year 1983.

In summary, the major topics and programs include:

## Public Policy:

- The Fee vs. Free Issue
- A National Information Policy
- Dissemination of Federal Information
- Revision of LSCA
- Urban Libraries

## Government Programs and Services:

- Role of Depository Libraries
- Role of the Federal Government

## Organization of Information:

- Preservation

Dissemination of Information:

Cultural Minorities  
American Indians  
Aging/Senior Citizens

Use of Information:

Role of Information Products and Services in Improving  
U.S. Productivity and Economic Status

Managemenet of Library/Information Resources:

Resource Sharing/Networking  
Improving Productivity

Education and Training:

Education and Training

Research:

Research in Library and Information Science

Copyright:

Copyright

Information Technology:

Impact of Information Technology

Other Major Areas:

Literacy  
International  
Intellectual Freedom

NCLIS Internal Operations:

Improving Commission Operations

ACTION

The Members will evaluate the above proposed topics and programs and submit their evaluations to the staff by July 5, 1981. Additional suggestions for potential programs should be forwarded to the staff no later than July 20, 1981.

In discussing the possibility of NCLIS requesting Congress to lift its budget ceiling, Miss Cooke, Director, ALA Washington Office, suggested, "It is not the right time. The end of September would be better in terms of timing."

The matter of travel funds for the Planning/Futures Committee to meet in San Francisco was discussed. If travel funds are not available (as determined by the NCLIS staff), the Members agreed to forfeit any honorarium; however, travel cost and per diem will be provided.

#### NCLIS Vice Chairman

It was MOVED by Margaret Warden, and seconded by Helmut Alpers, that Bessie B. Moore be re-elected to serve as NCLIS Vice Chairman for the term July 19, 1981, to July 18, 1982. Passed unanimously.

#### Future Commission Dates

The following dates should be set aside for future Commission meetings:

October 22 and 23, 1981, in Washington, D.C.  
January 14-15, 1982, in Washington, D.C.  
April 21-22, 1982, in Washington, D.C.  
August 24-25, 1982, in Montreal, Canada (in conjunction with ALA)  
October 14-15, 1982, in Washington, D.C.

As in the past, the day before each meeting is set aside for Committee meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.