

DRAFT
MINUTES
**U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

August 5 and 6, 1993

**The Free Library of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT**

Shirley G. Adamovich, Daniel W. Casey,
Carol K. DiPrete, Wanda L. Forbes,
Norman Kellinson, Ben-chieh Liu,
Charles E. Reid, Kay W. Riddle, Winston Tabb,
and Elinor H. Swaim, Vice Chairman

**COMMISSIONERS
ABSENT**

Barbara J. H. Taylor

STAFF PRESENT

Peter R. Young, Executive Director
Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar, Associate Executive
Director,
Jane Williams, Research Associate, Barbara L.
Whiteleather, Special Assistant and Recording
Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT

Susan Bolesta, Public Affairs Department, Free Library of Philadelphia (FLOP);
Thomas Childers, Professor, Drexel University, College of Information Studies;
Gerri Duclow, Head, Theater Collection Department, FLOP;
Louis Helverson, Head, Automobile Reference Collection, FLOP;
Gloria Hibbitt, Head, Foundation Center, FLOP;
Christine C. Higgins, Venture Development Associates;
Marjorie L. Hill, Ben Franklin Business Information Center;
Charles R. McClure, Professor, Syracuse University, School of Information Studies and NCLIS Distinguished Researcher;
Sara Parker, Commissioner of Libraries, State Library of Pennsylvania;
John A. Philbrick, III, Emeritus, Board of Trustees, FLOP;
Mary Ann Promost, Assistant Chief, Central Public Services Division, FLOP;
J. Randell Rosensteel, Administrative Assistant to the President and Director, FLOP; and
Elliot Shelkrot, President and Director, FLOP

OBSERVERS PRESENT

Leah F. Chanin, D. C. School of Law (official NCLIS observer, American Association of Law Libraries);
David R. Hoffman, State Library of Pennsylvania;
Viola Jones, Regional Librarian, Northwest Regional Library, FLOP;
Tom Sloan, Delaware State Librarian (official NCLIS observer, COSLA);
Marjorie Smink, Chairman, Government Relations, Medical Library Association

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1993

Northwest Regional Library The Free Library of Philadelphia

OPENING REMARKS

Pending the nomination and confirmation of the NCLIS Chairman, NCLIS Vice Chairman Elinor H. Swaim presided over the meeting.

Vice Chairman Swaim welcomed the Commissioners, staff, guests, and visitors, and introduced Mr. Elliot Shelkrot, President and Director, The Free Library of Philadelphia.

ELLIOT SHELKROT

Mr. Elliot Shelkrot, President and Director, The Free Library of Philadelphia, thanked the Commissioners for accepting his invitation to meet in Philadelphia at the Free Library. He welcomed the Commissioners and staff to Philadelphia and to the Northwest Regional Library, a branch of FLOP. He noted that there are 54 libraries throughout the city with almost 700,000 registered cardholders. The library system's collection totals more than 9.6 million items, and over 66,000 reference questions are answered weekly. In 1991 there were 5.5 million books borrowed, and over 365,000 people enjoyed almost 18,000 public programs presented at the libraries. Mr. Shelkrot stated, "Last year, more people visited The Free Library (5.6 million) than the combined attendance at Phillies, Eagles, Flyers and 76ers games (4 million)." Forty-eight of the branch libraries are open five days a week, however, with the help of volunteers, ten of these libraries will now be open six days a week. "There is a campaign to recruit volunteers to extend what the staff can do; it is not a program to replace staff," he said. Mr. Shelkrot stated that focus continues to be on strengthening current libraries rather than opening new ones. He also spoke about Philadelphia's recent and on-going renovation and the tremendous personal work being done in this effort by Edward Rendell, the Mayor of Philadelphia. The Library's motto is, "Libraries Change Lives."

Mr. Shelkrot was especially enthusiastic about the 30,000 youngsters enrolled in the Summer Reading Program called "Fast Forward." "This program involves technology, not just books, but information technology, -- films, tapes, databases," he stated. The children choose a book or use the library's information technology and receive weekly certificates for their accomplishments. The program receives assistance, mainly for incentives and publicity, from many corporations (notably CONRAIL and First Fidelity Bank) to enable the success of the program.

Mr. Shelkrot requested Commission participation on Friday, August 6, in the Library's Summer Reading Program for children. Commissioners are invited to listen to several children recap a story they have just read. Mayor Rendell will join Commissioners in presenting each child with a certificate for participating in the Program.

Mr. Shelkrot noted that there is a real need to learn to communicate better with those governmental officials responsible for budget decisions. "Libraries are part of the solution to city problems. To keep future libraries strong and effective, State and local government support must continue and improve." He noted that of the \$45 million budget for the library, 85% is from the city; 13% from the State; and the remainder from private funding. The Federal share is less than one percent.

Vice Chairman Swaim thanked Mr. Shelkrot for his informative presentation and presented him with a NCLIS logo pin.

TRI-COMMITTEE MEETING

Commissioner DiPrete, Chair, Legislative and Library Statistics Committee, called the NCLIS Tri-Committee meeting to order. The Tri-Committee is composed of the Ad Hoc Committee on GOALS 2000: Educate America, Education and Special Populations Committee, and Legislative and Library Statistics Committee. All Commissioners present were invited to attend.

Boston Forum

Commissioner Adamovich reported on the *Open Forum on Library and Information Services for Children and Youth: Redefining the Federal Role*, held May 4-5, 1993, at the Boston Public Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

Copies of the printed transcript were handed out at the meeting and are in the process of being distributed. The Government Printing Office has provided the report in microfiche to the 1300 depository libraries.

Broadside Series

The Committee Members agreed to maintain the focus on children and youth services in libraries by developing a broadside series calling attention to dominant issues on children/youth library and information services, e.g., relate how technology, libraries, and education all go together, and how library services should be identified as the foundation without which technology and education will not succeed. The intended targets for the broadside series are the Administration, Members of Congress, States, and policy makers at the State and local levels.

Commissioner DiPrete urged, "When you hear the word 'education,' you should think of libraries. When you hear the word 'technology,' you should also think of libraries. Focus on how our children will be served. Keep pounding the issue." Commissioner Forbes suggested the following titles for the broadside: (1) Why we need to THINK LIBRARIES, or (2) Kids need libraries to: (1), (2), (3)...

Commissioner Reid urged that the broadside brochure be visually appealing, both glitzy and eye-catching. Each broadside in the series would have a theme, topic, issue, and cite situations and solutions. Commissioner Adamovich stated that the Commissioners' knowledge and expertise will be an asset to staff developing the broadside series, and specifically requested Mrs. Reszetar's advice about the effectiveness of such an effort. Mrs. Reszetar strongly supported the concept and suggested that a series of broadsides based on the areas of concern expressed in the 1991 White House Conference be developed as an ongoing project.

NCLIS/AASL Survey

Commissioner DiPrete presented the request from Mary Jo Lynch, Director, Office for Research and Statistics, ALA, to substitute Arkansas for South Carolina as one of the selected States to be surveyed in the joint AASL/NCLIS school library statistics project. Because South Carolina has recently completed a survey of school library media center specialists, it is not advisable to re-survey them in this project. These survey results from South Carolina will, however, be included in the project report.

Midwest Forum/Flood Assessment

Commissioner Reid recommended establishing a task force to assess library and library collection damages from the floods in the Midwest and to report these findings to the President and Congress. Commissioner Reid further suggested combining the assessment with a Midwest forum on library and information services for children and youth. Commissioner Kelson and Commissioner Liu agreed that a Midwest forum on the topic is needed and suggested that the forum's emphasis be on rural access to school library media centers. Commissioner Casey and Mrs. Reszetar informed the Commission that WHCLIST passed a resolution at its recent meeting urging NCLIS to convene such a Midwest forum.

After discussion, Commissioner Kelson agreed to call the State Librarians of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri to learn, first-hand, the extent of the damage to libraries and their collections. Commissioner Kelson will report his findings back to the Commission.

Commissioner DiPrete stated that, in her opinion, the flood disaster is a separate issue from the work of the Tri-Committee. "The timing is right on children and youth. We need to bring this initiative to closure," she urged.

California Forum

The California forum on library and information services for children and youth will be held on Thursday, September 2, 1993, at the California State Library in Sacramento. By a show of hands, the following Commissioners expressed interest in participating in the forum: Adamovich, Casey, Forbes, Kelinson, Liu, Reid, Riddle, and Swaim. Attending staff members are Peter Young and Jane Williams.

NCLIS/ALA/COSLA Meeting - August 4, 1993

Commissioner Forbes presented a brief report on a follow-up meeting on children and youth library and information services with representatives from NCLIS, ALA, COSLA on August 4, 1993. The two main purposes of the meeting were: (1) To share and update participants on pertinent, recent legislation and library and information services issues, and (2) To draft a framework for NCLIS liaisons with the education community.

Commissioner Forbes cited several pertinent comments by the participants:

NCLIS needs to be doing more coordinating and advising." Ray Fry, Office of Library Programs, OERI, U.S. Department of Education.

Every library is a dynamic learning center for a Nation of learners,. Learning is a cradle -to -grave effort. - Ray Fry

Libraries do not market very well what it is they do best - Ann Weeks, ALA

What can NCLIS and ALA do together? - Tom Sloan, Delaware State Librarian

I like the idea of NCLIS producing a broadside/white paper. - Maurice Travillian, Maryland State Librarian

NCLIS is to be congratulated for keeping the momentum on library and information services for children and youth. Susan Roman, ALA

NCLIS has a strong role in library coordination. - Ray Fry, OERI

Commissioner DiPrete noted that the representatives held six hours of intensive discussion. A summary report of the meeting will be forthcoming.

Meeting with Assistant Secretary Payzant

On Tuesday, August 2, 1993, Vice Chairman Swaim and Commissioner Forbes met with Dr. Thomas W. Payzant, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education. The Commission Members requested the meeting with Dr. Payzant to explore ways in which the two organizations can work together to provide for the future information needs of the students and schools in the next century.

In summarizing the meeting, Vice Chairman Swaim reported that Dr. Payzant stated that the Federal Government is very interested in technology as a major approach to education and also as a means of educational reform. The Department is interested in family literacy and in building coalitions. As the former Superintendent of San Diego Schools, Dr. Payzant was especially pleased to learn of the upcoming California forum. He stated that he was impressed with the work that the Commission is doing in the area of school library media center programs and suggested further meetings and briefings in this area.

School Library Media Centers Survey

Copies of the draft survey of school library media centers was distributed. The Committee noted that they had earlier agreed to ALA's request to substitute Arkansas for South Carolina, because of South Carolina's recent survey. It was reiterated, however, that South Carolina's data will be included in the final report resulting from the project.

The Committee reported that Commissioner's comments on the draft survey must be received by Peter Young no later than Friday, August 13, 1993.

Commissioners will receive the draft cover letter for their review and comment.

Commissioner Liu reminded the Commission that he has volunteered his services to assist in this project.

American Statistical Association

Dr. Liu distributed copies of the paper, *Public Library Service Distribution – An Interstate Expenditure Analysis* – which he prepared for the American Statistical Association's Annual meeting in San Francisco, California, August 8-12, 1993. Commissioner Liu encouraged Commissioners to comment on the paper.

In summary, the Tri-Committee recommended, and the full Commission present accepted, the following plan of action.

- To endorse the concept of a series of broadsides/white papers;
- To plan for additional Commissioner participation at the California forum, as allowed by budget considerations;
- To plan for a Midwest open forum on children and youth services;
- To develop a proposal for hosting a teleconference at the University of South Carolina in Spring 1994 on children and youth services;
- To provide for NCLIS Member comments on the ALA/NCLIS Survey of School Media Centers;
- To continue contacts with Department of Education, associations, and liaisons; and

SARA PARKER

Guest luncheon speaker, Sara Parker, Commissioner for Libraries and Deputy Secretary of Education, State Library of Pennsylvania, welcomed the Commissioners to Pennsylvania, stating, "The logo and theme for the 1990 Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services was *Pennsylvania: America's Libraries Start Here.*" Ms. Parker provided background information on the establishment of libraries in the Commonwealth, reviewed the September 1991 Comprehensive Plan and the Governor's Conference Resolutions, presented an update on Pennsylvania's progress and future actions toward achieving each of the National Education Goals, and described the effectiveness of distance learning and technology.

Ms. Parker stated that Pennsylvania does boast several "firsts," among them:

- First free public library, established by Ben Franklin in 1731;
- First medical librarian in the United States, 1763;
- First special librarian;
- First book registration for copyright;
- First radio broadcast;
- First book for the blind;
- First electronic computers;
- First State Librarian (1754);
- First catalog of printed books;
- First classified catalog (adopted by the Library of Congress in 1815).

Ms. Parker cited four areas of work relating to the work of the Commission:

- (1) Public Libraries Project;

- (2) **Pennsylvania Educational Reform;**
- (3) **Strengthening services to children and youth and meeting the information needs of an aging State; and**
- (4) **Information technology.**

Following a brief question and answer session, Vice Chairman Swaim thanked Ms. Parker for traveling from Harrisburg to meet with the Commissioners, for the informative presentation, and for the pamphlets and publications on the State Library of Pennsylvania.

VIOLA JONES

Guest speaker Ms. Viola Jones, Librarian, Northwest Regional Library, The Free Library of Philadelphia, presented an overview of the Northwest Regional Library, its heritage, services, and collections. Ms. Jones described several issues facing the library and its community. Forty-nine percent of the community -- referred to as "non-print oriented" people -- are not using the library. Non-print oriented, she explained, means that books are not a part of their lives.

In order to attract the non-visitors, the library has been renovated to make it more fun, interesting, appealing, and up-lifting. The lobby now has neon lights, and the best selling books, videos, CD's, and audio cassettes. Library activities include yoga, bicycle repair, information on pregnancy, etc. The library staff want the children to develop reading habits and realize that "Reading is Fun!". "You reach the parents through the kids, and the kids through the parents," Ms. Jones stated.

The Commissioners praised Ms. Jones for her excellent work and initiative, and thanked her for the informative presentation.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

IFLA

Commissioner Tabb, Chair, International Committee, reported on the latest development regarding U.S. hosting a future IFLA Conference. He reported that the U.S. Associations decided that the U.S. should bid to host IFLA in 2000 or 2001 in Washington, D.C. The Association of Research Libraries will have the lead role in Conference planning. IFLA 1997 will be held in either Switzerland or Brazil.

International Task Force

Mr. Young reported that, as a result of Michael Farrell and Commissioner DiPrete's June trip to meet with Brian Perry, Director of Research and Development at the British Library in London, tentative plans were made to establish an International Task Force on the Role of Information in the Economy. Letters to 30 potential participants around the world, whose names were suggested by F. Woody Horton, Jr., and Brian Perry, were sent on July 16, 1993. Mr. Young stated, however, that the Commission had not made a direct commitment to establish either a Task Force or hold a meeting. Mr. Perry is interested in making definite plans for a meeting in November 1993. Mr. Young informed Mr. Perry that Mr. Farrell's term as Chairman expired July 19, 1993, and that the matter would be discussed at this August Commission meeting.

The NCLIS meeting notebook contained background materials, including: (a) Memo from Mr. Farrell to Mr. Perry, June 15, 1993, entitled, Follow-up to Glenerin Process; (b) Letter to potential participants, dated July 16, 1993; (c) Listing, potential participants; and (d) Executive Summary, *Barriers to an Information Resources-Based Economy*, by Forest Woody Horton, Jr.

Commissioner Reid endorsed the concept of an International Task Force on the Role of Information in the Economy for fiscal year 1994. He also suggested: (1) The preparation of a background paper, and (2) The involvement of Library of Congress and State Department officials.

Commissioner Tabb asked, "Are there domestic activities more pressing than the establishment of an international task force? We should determine how this program fits into current and overall Commission programs and priorities."

The Commissioners unanimously agreed that Mr. Young should notify Brian Perry and the proposed task force members of the Commission's decision to determine NCLIS priorities and program commitments, after which a decision about convening an initial meeting -- after November 1993 -- will be made. In addition, a mission statement articulating NCLIS' international role will be developed, with staff assistance, by the International Committee.

Preservation of Scholarly Literary Resources of Russia

The Commission reviewed the draft letter prepared by Commissioner Casey to President Clinton proposing to preserve the scholarly literary resources of Russia. After discussion, the following motion was introduced and passed.

MOTION

Moved by Charles Reid, seconded by Wanda Forbes, that the International Committee review the intent of the letter to President Clinton, and develop an implementation program for Commission review at the November meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

ICSOC

Mr. Young reported that on July 1, 1993, the U.S. Department of State approved NCLIS' request to use \$15,000 from the FY 1993 ICSOC allocation "for partial support of representatives to participate in the 59th IFLA conference in Barcelona."

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Commissioner Riddle, Chair, Public Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee is soliciting ideas in the area of public information for their consideration. A draft NCLIS brochure, updating activities and membership, is now being reviewed by the Committee. The brochure will be presented at the NCLIS November meeting for Commission approval.

Commissioners were requested to review the proposed Committee structure (included in the meeting notebook) for discussion on Friday.

Commissioner Casey urged that a part-time consultant be hired to handle NCLIS news stories, press releases, and publicity. Commissioner Forbes stated if the South Carolina teleconference could be arranged, it would provide positive publicity for the Commission. Commissioner DiPrete suggested that the Public Affairs Committee also be involved with NCLIS programs and plans.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Copies of the NCLIS Spending Plan for FY 1993, as of July 13, 1993, were distributed. Commissioner Kelson, Chair, Budget and Finance Committee, reminded Commissioners to submit their activity requests and proposals for Fiscal Year 1994 prior to the November 1993 NCLIS meeting.

Librarian Shortages and Training Program Adequacy

Mr. Young distributed copies of a memorandum to Vice Chairman Swaim regarding Librarian Shortages and Training Program Adequacy, dated August 4, 1993. The memorandum provided background and general discussion points related to the following question posed to the Department of Education by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee of Appropriations on June 24, 1993, concerning the 1994 appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies.

The Committee requests that the Department (of Education) submit a formal report to the Committee on the issue of personnel shortages in the library field and the adequacy of existing training programs to meet the needs for trained librarians."

Mr. Young suggested that the Commission may wish to consider different alternative projects which would address these issues and topics, including the following:

(a) Commission papers on the following topics:

- Library and Information Needs of the Future;
- Library and Information Support Required to Meet Future Needs; and
- Training and Education for Library and Information Professionals in Support of Future Needs.

(b) Identify consultants to develop discussion papers addressing the above issues.

(c) Hold an invitational meeting to discuss the issues raised by the papers in December 1993:

Mr. Young referred to the NCLIS mandate, P.L. 91-345, Sec. 5. (a) (3) which directs the Commission to: "appraise the adequacies and deficiencies of current library and information resources and services and evaluate the effectiveness of current library and information science programs." With this charge, he noted, this is exactly what the Commission should be doing. Commissioner Riddle stated that responding to this request for information would provide good public relations for the Commission.

The Commissioners praised Mr. Young for his initiative in pursuing the Appropriation Committee's request.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

At a reception hosted by the Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, and Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia, Vice Chairman Swaim presented Mr. Shelkrot with an NCLIS Resolution recognizing the Library's superior library and information services and commending his leadership and achievements.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1993

Vice Chairman Swaim called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. On behalf of the Commissioners and staff she expressed appreciation to the entire staff of the Free Library of Pennsylvania, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Directors, for the lovely reception held in the Commission's honor on Thursday, August 5, 1993.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Because of time limitations, Mr. Young presented an extremely brief Executive Director's Report. He noted that this meeting occurs on the third anniversary of his first day of work as Executive Director. Mr. Young stated that he was pleased to hold the Commission's fourth meeting in FY 1993 at the Northwest Branch and in the magnificent central library building of the Free Library of Philadelphia at the invitation of Elliot Shelkrot. This NCLIS meeting focuses attention on two of the Commission's priority program areas: network technology and library services to children and youth.

Mr. Young reported that, after listening to the presentation by Sara Parker, Pennsylvania Commissioner for Libraries and Deputy Secretary of Education, several Commissioners suggested that she and Barratt Wilkins, Florida State Librarian, be invited to a future NCLIS meeting to discuss LSCA reauthorization activity since they co-chair the COSLA Legislation Committee.

Mr. Young reported that decisions on NCLIS appointments have been made. The names go from the Office of Presidential Personnel to the Office of General Counsel, then to the FBI for background investigations. With this schedule, it may be at least six weeks before the names are released. Therefore, no orientation activities for new NCLIS Members is being planned in FY 1993.

Mr. Young stated that his most often asked question is, "What is the Commission's most important accomplishment?" To that question, he replies, "The fact that the Commission has continued to operate through dynamic changes and has continued to fulfill its mission through those great changes. I am convinced the Commission will play an even more central role in the future."

A detailed Executive Director's Report, covering May 19 to August 6, 1993, was included in the NCLIS meeting folder.

ELLIOT SHELKROT

Mr. Shelkrot introduced Mrs. Gerri Duclow, Head, Theater Collections Department. Mrs. Duclow briefly discussed the Library's emphasis on cultural arts and the preservation of materials. She noted that the first American theater was in Philadelphia, and that Philadelphia served as a major try-out tour city for amateurs on their way to New York. She displayed several items -- of more than a million items -- on theater, film, TV, radio, the circus, and variety shows. Mrs. Duclow emphasized that the collection is used by patrons, and that the exhibits attract many young people.

Mr. Louis Helverson, Head, Automobile Reference Collections Department, stated that the Library has one of the world's largest collections of automobile history, including books, technical manuals, sales literature, and photographs. The Library spends \$50,000 per year to purchase automotive information. He displayed several of the manuals and reference materials and described some of the most often asked questions.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Commissioners were invited by Mr. Shelkrot to participate in the Library's Summer Reading Program for children by presenting certificates to children in the Program. Six children were selected for their outstanding work in the program which is called called, "Fast Forward". Each child sat with two Commissioners and told the story of the latest book he had read. The children were presented with a certificate for their accomplishment from Mayor Edward Rendell, City of Philadelphia.

Mayor Rendell welcomed the Commissioners to Philadelphia and expressed appreciation for the important work of the Commission. On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chairman Swaim praised Mayor Rendell for his concern for the Library, for Philadelphia's beautiful restorations, and for his wonderful interaction with the children.

CHARLES MCCLURE

Dr. Charles McClure, NCLIS Distinguished Researcher, and Professor at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies, spoke on the challenges involved in moving into an electronic environment, how that transition might occur, and the need for developing network literacy. He stated his concern that many libraries may not be able to "make the cut" into a networked information environment. "There will be a national information infrastructure developed. It is a question of when, not if, but the role of libraries is not clear. NCLIS needs to be concerned about this!" he stated.

Public libraries' role in the Internet could be to serve as a safety net for public access to network resources. The Internet currently has 12-15 million users worldwide and includes thousands of networks worldwide. Children can have electronic pen-pals around the world; they can learn to play a guitar ; send E-mail to Chelsea Clinton; and access endless information resources. The education issue, however, is critical since 98% of today's classrooms are not even equipped with a telephone jack.

Some critical issues are:

- Rethinking the role of libraries in a networked environment;
- Are Graduate Schools of Library and Information Science prepared to train people for working in this electronic environment?
- In the future, will the public library serve as a basic means for effective network access?
- How can we maintain social equity in access to the network?
- How will we resolve privacy and intellectual property issues in the new electronic environment?
- Need to re-define "Literacy." Network literacy is a national issue.
- What are the responsibilities and activities librarians will be engaged in over the next 5-10 years? Many librarians need re-tooling and retraining. "You cannot take the technology, throw it at people, and expect them to use it effectively without training."

Dr. McClure distributed copies of the press release issued by the Nysernet (a regional network) that described a project in which he is involved. The project is connecting six rural public libraries in New York State to the Internet and is providing those communities with access to electronic information via the Internet. The project will identify the impacts and uses of Internet connect within a rural setting.

The Commissioners thanked Professor McClure for his insightful presentation and expressed their appreciation for his service as NCLIS Distinguished Researcher.

THOMAS CHILDERS

Dr. Thomas Childers, Drexel University, College of Information Studies, presented his views on the future of library and information science education, and described a paradigm shift that is occurring and its impact on reference information services.

Dr. Childers noted that during his 23 years with the Drexel Graduate Library School, it has undergone the following name changes:

- (1) School of Library Science;**
- (2) School of Library and Information Science; and**
- (3) College of Information Studies.**

The Graduate School's mission is: To advance the information field through teaching and research, and to focus on employment niches and practical experience in specialization.

He identified the following six major employment niches:

- (1) Information Representer: structure/index/catalog/thesaurus/user needs**
- (2) Information Systems Designer, Analyst. Technical and human aspects**
- (3) Collection Manager: print, non-print, multimedia, electronic access, engineering**
- (4) Information Specialist: retrieving information**
- (5) Information Educator: Instruction in BI, etc.**
- (6) Manager of Information Unit.**

Dr. Childers stated, "The user is now faced with a bewildering range of choices. Where to go? How to get there? How to evaluate the information once you're there? There needs to be a lot of catching up and training." He reiterated Dr. McClure's statement, that the possible future role of the public library is serving as the safety net.

Copies of a press release issued by the National Forum on Information Literacy, American Library Association, *Educators in New York and Pennsylvania Call for Information Literacy Abilities For All Students.*, were distributed. The opening paragraph of the press release states, "In independent actions major steps were taken in both New York State and Pennsylvania to bring education into the Information Age. Official documents in both states put school systems on record that students need to acquire information literacy abilities."

On behalf of the Commissioners, Vice Chairman Swaim thanked Dr. Childers for his informative presentation.

NEXT NCLIS MEETING

By agreement, the next NCLIS meeting will be held on Monday, November 8 and Tuesday, November 9, 1993.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

At the suggestion of Mr. Shelkrot, the Commission invited Ms. Marjorie Hill, Director, Ben Franklin Business Information Center, and Christine (Chris) C. Higgins, founder of Venture Development Associates, to describe their initiatives which take advantage of information technology.

The first speaker, Ms. Hill, discussed the Ben Franklin Business Information Center and its services, including The Strategy 21 Network and the LibertyNet Concept, both resulting from a research and user want/need assessment by Ms. Higgins. The Center is an on-line retrieval service that helps companies

by making business, economic, and market information readily available and accessible through technology.

The Strategy 21 Network is a computer network that links major organizations serving the business community. It enables the organizations to better serve their clients by providing quick, accurate information. Through bulletin boards, E-mail, and access to various databases, these organizations can coordinate their efforts and provide a "working team" for regional businesses.

The LibertyNet Concept is an interactive, regional computer-based network linking businesses, civic, cultural, academic, educational, entertainment, and governmental institutions, and citizens through personal computers. The purpose of the LibertyNet is to lay the electronic foundation to support an environment that enables businesses to develop and grow and users to access regional, State, and Federal program information.

The Information Center conducts patent searches for 12 area universities. From 1991 to 1993, the Center conducted 764 searches for 310 companies and organizations, an average of 35 searches a month.

The Vice Chairman thanked Ms. Hill and Ms. Higgins for taking time from their busy schedules to brief the Commissioners on their state-of-the art work.

MIDWEST FLOOD ASSESSMENT

Commissioner Reid called for the Commission to assess the Midwest flood damage to library institutions and their collections. He suggested the Commission coordinate this assessment with the Office of Emergency Management. Commissioner Reid noted that this is in keeping with NCLIS' mandate to provide advice to the Congress and the President on library and information service needs of the Nation.

Commissioner Kelson offered to personally call the three State Libraries (Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri) to learn the extent of flood damage to libraries

in the Midwest. Commissioner Liu suggested that this misfortune presents the opportunity for an impact study on interruption to library services.

NCLIS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

By consensus, the Commissioners approved the following Committee structure:

- (1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- (2) ADMINISTRATION (includes Budget and Finance, Personnel, and Public Affairs)

[Commissioner Casey recommended, and Vice Chairman Swaim agreed, that a public affairs consultant (part-time) should be hired to assist staff in this area.]

- (3) EDUCATION - COMMITTEE ON GOALS 2000
- (4) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- (5) INTERNATIONAL

Commissioners were requested to indicate their Committee preferences and submit them to Mr. Young. Committee charges will be developed by the staff and sent to all Commissioners, prior to adoption at the November meeting. The intent is to have each Commissioner serve on only one Committee.

WHCLIST

The White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST) Steering Committee has requested \$12,500 financial support from NCLIS for its ongoing activities. The Commission noted that the letter did not state a specific purpose for the requested funds. The request from A. Eugene Neyhart, Chair, WHCLIST, was referred to the Budget and Finance Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Attachment

RESOLUTION

HONORING

THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

WHEREAS, The Free Library of Philadelphia is a resource for millions of people to come for pleasure, to enrich their ideas, to become inspired, and to learn in ways that affect not only their lives, but the communities in which they live. It is one of the largest public library systems in the Nation, with collections totaling 9.6 million items, branch libraries serving 54 neighborhoods, and over 5.5 million visiting patrons served in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding in 1891, the Free Library provides model programs serving the entire Philadelphia community -- from pre-schoolers to the business community -- with the largest computerized free public library system in the world; and

WHEREAS, The Free Library's rare book holdings represent one of the largest and finest collections among U.S. public libraries, including materials that span more than 4,000 years, from Sumerian cuneiform tablets to modern literary works; and

WHEREAS, The Free Library provides educators, business people, children, the handicapped, professionals, the elderly, scholars, the illiterate, parents, social workers, learners, artists, volunteers, and community leaders with the resources to affect and improve the lives of over four million people; and

WHEREAS, The Free Library is stimulating the love of learning, shaping character, encouraging literacy, and building hope by providing services to preschoolers and their parents in order to build a foundation for school achievement and a lifetime of learning.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Members of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science recognize the outstanding library and information services provided by The Free Library of Philadelphia to the citizens of greater Philadelphia, despite the challenges imposed by fiscal constraints.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Members of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science commend Mr. Elliot L. Shelkrot, Director and President, and the Free Library's distinguished Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, and dedicated staff for their leadership and achievements.

Unanimously approved by the Members of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science on August 6, 1993.