



United States
National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

DRAFT MINUTES
NCLIS PLANNING MEETING
Old Executive Office Building, Washington, D. C.
July 28-29, 1994

Commissioners Present:

Shirley Gray Adamovich; Daniel W. Casey; Martha B. Gould; Norman Kelinson; Frank J. Lucchino; Kay W. Riddle; Bobby L. Roberts; Gary N. Sudduth (July 29 only); Elinor H. Swaim (Vice Chairman); Winston Tabb; Robert S. Willard; and Jeanne Hurley Simon, Presiding Chairperson (via speaker telephone from Carbondale, IL. on July 28)

Commissioners Absent:

Carol K. DiPrete; Barbara J. H. Taylor; and Joel D. Valdez (Commissioner-Designate)

Staff Present:

Peter R. Young, Executive Director; Mary Alice Hedge-Reszetar, Associate Executive Director; Jane Williams; Research Associate; Eileen D. Cooke, NCLIS Consultant for LSCA Planning; John G. Lorenz, Coordinator, Library Statistics Program; Kim Miller, Administrative Assistant; and Barbara L. Whiteleather, Special Assistant and Recording Secretary

Guests and Observers Present:

William J. Clinton, President of the United States; Al Gore, Vice President of the United States; Abner J. Mikva, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; Leah F. Chanin, representative, American Association of Law Libraries; Susan Erdeky, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Education; Elinor M. Hashim (NCLIS Chairman Emeritus), OCLC Legislative Analyst;

Carol C. Henderson, Executive Director, American Library Association Washington Office; Robert Klassen, Director, Formula Library Programs Division, U.S. Department of Education; Richard P. Kleeman, Consultant, Association of American Publishing; Sara Parker, Commissioner of the State Library of Pennsylvania; Joan Ress Reeves, ALA Committee on Legislation (Co-Chair, Task Force on LSCA Reauthorization); Tom Sloan, State Librarian, Delaware State Library; Gerald Sophar, representative, American Society for Information Science; J. Maurice Travillian, State Librarian, Maryland State Department of Education; Clarence Walters, OCLC; (representing PLA Ad Hoc Committee on LSCA); Barratt Wilkins, Director, Florida

Division of Library and Information Services. During lunch on Friday, Commissioners and staff had the opportunity to meet and speak with Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Thursday, July 28, 1994

Chairperson Jeanne Hurley Simon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. via speaker telephone from Carbondale, Illinois.

Opening Remarks

Chairperson Simon reported that the White House is considering individuals to replace Vice Chairman Swaim and Commissioner Casey, whose five-year terms expired July 19, 1994.

Commissioners, staff, guests, and observers introduced themselves. Miss Eileen Cooke, formerly Executive Director of the American Libraries Association Washington Office, was introduced and welcomed as consultant to NCLIS on Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) reauthorization.

Chairperson Simon extended her greetings and expressed her appreciation for being able to conduct the NCLIS planning meeting via speaker telephone.

Approval of NCLIS Minutes

MOTION

Moved by Daniel Casey, seconded by Martha Gould, that the draft minutes of the NCLIS meeting, March 22-24, 1994, be approved as submitted.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of NCLIS Conference Call Notes

MOTION

Moved by Daniel Casey, seconded by Martha Gould, that the draft notes of the NCLIS conference call, May 19, 1994, be approved as submitted.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson thanked the Commissioners and staff for the many briefings and presentations on past and present NCLIS programs, plans and activities. Because the NCLIS orientation meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia, March 22-24, 1994, was so informative, complete, and concise, Chairperson Simon commented that she felt her breaking-in period was accomplished quickly and successfully. She expressed the same hope for the five newly appointed Commissioners.

Mrs. Simon stated that the next two years will be critical for the Commission. During this period the Commission will celebrate its twenty-fifth year and will participate in restructuring the major federal program for libraries: the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).

Chairperson Simon reported that Congress has requested NCLIS to facilitate the process of the LSCA reauthorization during this transition period "to see that all of the bases are covered and that our libraries stay healthy." In its role as honest broker, NCLIS must think strategically beyond the reauthorization of LSCA to carry out its statutory mission and to formulate a compelling vision of the library in the next century. Chairperson Simon applauded the work of the Task Force on LSCA reauthorization and noted that the Task Force will meet July 31 and August 1, 1994, in Washington, D.C. to, among other things, identify issues that require immediate attention. Commissioner Gould, Peter Young, and Mary Alice Hedge will be present.

In her role as NCLIS Chairperson, Mrs. Simon reported that the last four months (April - July) have been hectic with many important and informative speeches, meetings, and appointments. For the record, a list of the Chairperson's meetings and appointments is included in the Executive Director's report in TAB B of the NCLIS meeting notebook.

Executive Director's Report

Peter Young presented the second Executive Director's report in calendar year 1994.

In the interest of time, Mr. Young briefly reported on NCLIS activities and programs since the March 1994 meeting. His report covered: (a) publication and distribution of reports on completed projects; (b) Library Statistics Program; (c) international activities; and (d) other NCLIS activities following the March meeting.

He noted that from the House Appropriations Committee action, the Commission's proposed budget for FY 1995 is \$901,000, 99.7 percent of its FY 1994 budget. The Commission's budget request for FY 1996 and a customer service plan are both due for submission to OMB in early September 1994. Today's and tomorrow's discussions will be very important in helping shape these documents.

"Further," Mr. Young stated, "the Commission's planning activity must be carefully focused on providing the advice that elected leaders require to successfully address the challenges of the future. To be effective, the Commission needs carefully constructed and consistent programmatic development from year to year. That development ties into another set of factors, for example, the Commission's accountability as a federal agency, and the federal environment, generally. The Commission's agenda is not small in the sense that it encompasses improving the capacity and ability of the library and information services community in meeting the needs of all Americans. The agenda, however, must be very focused. I look forward to continuing to work with all the Commissioners in this work."

Upon conclusion of the Executive Director's report, Chairperson Simon praised Mr. Young stating, "NCLIS is very fortunate to have Peter Young as the Executive Director."

Background Information Related to LSCA Reauthorization

Commissioners Adamovich, Gould, and Roberts facilitated this portion of the meeting by identifying key issues related to LSCA that are important for planning future NCLIS activities. Background information related to LSCA reauthorization was included in TAB C of the NCLIS meeting notebook.

The Commissioners discussed the draft consensus document developed by the LSCA Task Force (TAB C-6). That document cites the following guiding principles underpinning the proposed reauthorization: (1) The Act joins each state with the federal government as partners/implementors for change; (2) the Act is state based; (3) The Act supports programs based on state plans; (4) the Act provides for maximum flexibility consistent with the achievement of its goals; and (5) the Act should provide for forward funding or a three-year spending authorization.

Although most Commissioners found the consensus document a "good draft," Commissioner Gould offered to develop an outline of suggested policy directions which identify policy issues deserving of federal support.

The Department of Education, Office of Library Programs, has formed a Department-wide Steering Committee on the LSCA reauthorization to develop principles to guide development of their Agency proposal. The committee held its first meeting in May to identify key issues and will meet again in late August or early September to consider the issues. In the meantime, Department-wide teams have developed draft white papers, defining issues, developing background, and identifying options. The Department's Steering Committee will consider the final papers at its next meeting. An Agency proposal for LSCA reauthorization is planned to be sent to the Congress in the spring of 1995.

At Chairperson Simon's request, Commissioner's read aloud their own written statements prepared prior to the meeting regarding: (1) Principles that guide future federal roles relating to libraries and information services; and (2) Which NCLIS functions included in our statute should we emphasize in planning Commission activities related to LSCA reauthorization? Copies of the statements were enclosed in the NCLIS meeting packet.

For the record, the staff prepared a summary of the Commissioners' statements on principles to guide development of future federal roles relating to libraries and information services. See Attachment I.

Commissioner Tabb suggested that, in addition to the above summary, a composite of the Commissioners' statements be prepared. Commissioner Gould further suggested drafting issues papers from material extracted from both the draft consensus document and Commissioners' statements.

Individual comments on the LSCA reauthorization included the following:

- LSCA has been a tremendous help in the United States. (Adamovich)
- There is a need to look toward the future with regard to information technology. What effect will the technology changes have on the federal government? Emphasis needs to be on retraining, evaluation, research, and breaking down barriers between types of libraries. (Gould)
- I urge that over-all programs continue to be state-based. State agencies are best poised to administer the majority of the Federal funds. The LSCA was effective because it was state-based. Move ahead boldly, but: (1) get everyone on board; and (2) put eggs in different baskets. (Cooke)
- Accountability is self-serving. How do we assess accountability in real terms? I see a role for NCLIS in looking at accountability, similar to NCLIS' role in the Internet study. (Roberts)
- I see a role for the Commission in evaluation of programs. (Gould)
- Evaluation is important and NCLIS must push for it. (Simon)
- The LSCA Task Force did not go into detail regarding evaluation because the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 regulations are being developed and evaluation must conform to GPRA regulations. (Henderson)
- NCLIS represents users of libraries. (Simon)

- Librarians in the field ask what LSCA does for them. The time-gap needs to be addressed. (Roberts)
- NCLIS needs a clear idea about what to recommend over the next five years. Our recommendations should be concise, clear, and concrete. (Adamovich)
- Single principle: Federal funds/maximum impact. Assurance that federal funds are used to meet intended purpose! (Tabb)
- NCLIS should assure broadest possible access. Get LSCA to promote federal role to assure nationwide access. DRAFT A BILL. (Tabb)
- NCLIS should draft the bill. We have a real need for closure on activities. (Casey)
- Hearings on Senator Pell's bill (authorizing LSCA for five more years) will begin this fall, and NCLIS must be of one mind. (Simon)
- The best way to influence legislation is to influence the people who are writing the legislation. (Riddle)
- The Commission was instrumental in the 1981 hearings on LSCA, with the Chairman and Executive Director testifying on the Commission's position. (Casey)
- As a result of the 1979 WHCLIS, we were successful in getting parts of 22 of the 64 WHC Resolutions into the revised LSCA legislation. NCLIS actually coordinated the 1981 Congressional LSCA hearings. (Hedge-Reszetar)
- We have valuable background and history. NCLIS should be equally helpful now to Congress on the LSCA reauthorization, as it has in the past. To advise Congress we need to know how Goals 2000, the National Information Infrastructure, ESEA reauthorization, and the 1991 WHCLIS recommendations relate to LSCA. (Simon)
- People in the library community lack respect for NCLIS. They are not sure where we are coming from. (Lucchino)

After discussion, Commissioners agreed that the original purpose (establishment of public library service in rural areas) of LSCA had been met over the thirty-eight years of its existence.

Commissioners considered the question: "Should the authorization of federal programs for libraries consist of a single comprehensive act and/or should library support be included in multiple statutory authorizations?"

Chairperson Simon discussed the staff's proposal to hold a briefing on the role of libraries in the National Information Infrastructure (NII). The briefing would provide a

framework to identify and plan the coordination and development required to achieve NII goals and objectives at the State and federal levels. Key administration officials, Executive branch agency representatives, and Congressional staff would be invited to participate, along with NCLIS members and selected representatives from state library agencies, library and information associations, foundations, and libraries using the Internet.

Commissioner Casey urged inviting testifiers from non-library organizations and the lay community, e.g., American Association of Retired People, Literacy Volunteers of America, etc. Commissioner Willard agreed and reminded the group that NCLIS' enabling law, Public Law 91-345, states, "SEC. 2. The Congress hereby affirms that library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people of the United States are essential to achieve national goals and to utilize most effectively the Nation's educational resources and that the Federal Government will cooperate with State and local governments and public and private agencies in assuring optimum provision of such services."

Carol Henderson noted that the NII presents a whole new area of rural need in the area of technology and that state funding pays an important part in the Internet connection.

Ms. Hedge-Reszetar suggested the idea of exploring the possibility of NCLIS helping to coordinate a Congressional hearing in conjunction with the upcoming Nevada Library Association (NLA)/Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) Joint Conference in Lake Tahoe, October 26-29, 1994, as 11 states will be present. Chairperson Simon will also be there as keynote speaker on Thursday, October 27.

Commissioner Lucchino agreed with Ms. Hedge-Reszetar's suggestion stating, "We ought to reach the people whom we never see, such as the Mountain Plains residents. To keep meeting in Washington, D.C., is to repeat mistakes of the past." He further suggested establishing an ad hoc committee for such a hearing rather than involving the full Commission. Commissioner Tabb supported Commissioner Lucchino's suggestions. However, Commissioner Gould stated that it may be too late to schedule a briefing or hearing during the NLA/MPLA Joint Conference since the agenda has already been finalized but she would make inquiries.

Chairperson Simon requested comments from those present:

Clarence Walters: "You hear from the same people at a lot of forums. We need input from people we do not usually hear from and from untrained people. Focus should be on the Internet user."

Barratt Wilkins: "We have a time element here [on LSCA reauthorization]. Let's take what we have and move forward with our current Congressional friends. Meet with the appropriate people in Congress and see what they want from us as a library

community. Much of the draft consensus document was written by users. American people are the focus."

Tom Sloan: "It is important that LSCA be a state-based program. Ensure what the state needs to do continues."

Joan Ress Reeves: "Thank you for suggesting that NCLIS endorse the draft consensus document. It is clear that the LSCA reauthorization is needed now, and quickly, before Congress changes. I suggest that a good role for the Commission would be to take a visionary look at libraries and imagine what their place will be in the 21st century. Will libraries be in cyberspace or will library buildings and books still exist? What will happen to the library's role and function as a community center?"

Gerry Sophar: "I am pleased to hear NCLIS is planning to meet with the Mountain Plains States. I was afraid concern for rural library and information services was dead. On another matter, I hope the Commission will consider working again on improved library and information services for the elderly, which is, of course, part of the Commission's mandate."

Commissioner Lucchino expressed disappointment that many of the participants in the NCLIS/NCES/Office of Library Programs 1994 Forum on Library and Information Services Policy seemed to stay for only brief periods of the time, which is typical of Washington bureaucrats.

After more discussion, Chairperson Simon determined that NCLIS as a body felt it appropriate to schedule a briefing on the role of libraries in the National Information Infrastructure (NII) to be conducted in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday and Thursday, September 21 and 22, 1994, the preferred meeting dates determined through a recent poll of Commissioners. The briefing will involve all Commissioners and key officials from the Executive branch and Congress and the library and information community focusing on the results of the NCLIS survey of public libraries and the Internet. The purpose of this briefing is to identify those areas which require federal support in achieving the goals of the National Information Infrastructure. The results of this briefing will help NCLIS formulate proposals and positions related to the reauthorization of LSCA. Commissioner Willard offered to help plan the briefing, along with Commissioner DiPrete.

Information Infrastructure Task Force

Commissioner Willard reported on the work of the 37-member National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council. Each member of the NII Advisory Council is working on one of three Mega Projects:

(1) Vision and Goals Driven by Specific Applications. Key application areas which will be considered are the following:

- Education, including training, libraries, and lifelong learning;
- Health Care, including information services and diagnostic care;
- Electronic Commerce, including content and services;
- Public Safety, including national security, crime detection, major disaster management, and public safety systems.

(2) Access to the NII

(3) Privacy, Security and Intellectual Property

Commissioner Willard urged that NCLIS continue our liaison with the NII Advisory Council and suggested that an NCLIS meeting be held in conjunction with the Council's meeting in February 1995.

Ethics Training for NCLIS Members

Susan P. Erdeky, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Education, conducted the required annual ethics training for NCLIS Members.

Ms. Erdeky's presentation covered the New Standards of Conduct and the Standards of Ethical Conduct. She also answered questions on gifts from outside sources, conflicting financial interests misuse of position, and outside activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

July
Friday, August 29, 1994

Chairperson Simon called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. She introduced and welcomed Hon. Abner J. Mikva, Chief Judge of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. He is a former member of the U. S. House of Representatives and a member of the Ways and Means Committee. He was appointed to the bench by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. Judge Mikva was present to officially swear in the six new Commissioners (Gould, Lucchino, Roberts, Simons, Sudduth, Willard).

Official Swearing-in Ceremony

Judge Mikva invited all Commissioners to take the oath of office by pledging:

"I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of which I am about to enter. So help me God."

NCLIS Resolutions

Chairperson Simon presented resolutions of appreciation to Elinor Swaim and Daniel Casey for their service to the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. Their terms expired July 19, 1994. Copies of the resolutions were included in the NCLIS meeting packet.

Discussion, ALA Draft Consensus Document on LSCA

Commissioner Roberts—NCLIS representative to the LSCA Task Force meeting in April 1994—expressed his opinion that the ALA draft consensus document is streamlined, places emphasis on technology and Goals 2000, and deals with the core of LSCA. "Its ideas are programmatic, and it make sense," he stated. Commissioner Willard agreed and offered appreciation to individuals responsible for its development.

As discussed during the previous day's meeting, Commissioner Gould presented an outline of policy directions concerning the draft consensus document on LSCA reauthorization, which she offered for NCLIS review. See Attachment II.

After considerable discussion, the Commissioners passed the following motion:

MOTION

NCLIS agrees in principle with the proposals in the LSCA reauthorization draft consensus document and we ask that the President and Congress consider these proposals in shaping the reauthorization of LSCA.

Video on the County of Allegheny Public Library Services

Commissioner Lucchino showed a 30-second video promoting libraries in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. "Libraries need to sell themselves," he stated and offered use of the video which, with only name changes, could apply to most libraries. The spokesman for the video was David McCullough.

FY 1994 ICSECA Allocation

Mr. Young reported that the U.S. Department of State is prepared to provide a contribution of \$175,000 from FY 1994 ICSECA (International Contributions for Scientific, Educational, and Cultural Activities) allocation to NCLIS to support international information, libraries, and archives activities. Mr. Young proposed seven activities (based on responses received) for Department of State approval: See Attachment III.

The proposed contributions were approved as presented.

NCLIS Recognition Awards

Barbara Whiteleather reported that no nominations were received for the FY 1994 NCLIS Recognition Awards. Vice Chairman Swaim reminded the Commissioners of their decision to postpone the Chrysler Learning Corporation Recognition Award to FY 1994, even though it was approved by the Commission in May 1993. The Chrysler Learning Corporation was recognized for producing the free educational video and booklet, *Learn at Every Turn*, and for financially contributing to 50 school libraries.

Commissioner Lucchino nominated David McCullough, the spokesman for the video on the County of Allegheny public libraries.

Plaque Presented to Chairperson Simon

The Commissioners presented Chairperson Simon with a picture plaque composed of two covers from Library Journal: Senator Paul Simon, September 15, 1989, "Challenges Libraries on Literacy", and Jeanne Hurley Simon, May 1, 1994, "Can Simon Save NCLIS?". The Chairperson acknowledged the uniqueness of the plaque and thanked the Commissioners and staff.

NCLIS Calendar

The following meeting dates and topics were approved:

September 21 and 22, 1994, Washington, D.C.

Briefing on the role of libraries in the National Information Infrastructure

October 26-27, 1994, Lake Tahoe, NV.

NCLIS meeting in conjunction with the Nevada Library Association and the Mountain Plains Library Association Joint Conference. Discussion of the Hexagon strategic process will be included on the NCLIS agenda. (Chairperson Simon is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at the Conference on Thursday, October 27.) Additional agenda items will flow from this meeting and the September 21-22 briefing.

Suggestions for FY 1995 NCLIS meetings and telephone conference calls included:

- February. NCLIS meeting in conjunction with the NII Advisory Council, February 22, 1995, location to be determined. (Commissioner Willard)
- February, Philadelphia, PA. NCLIS meeting in conjunction with ALA Midwinter, February 3-9. (Commissioners recommended continuing the NCLIS breakfast with the ALA Executive Board.)
- April. Celebration of 25th anniversary of NCLIS. Could perhaps be planned in conjunction with a White House Ceremony signing of new LSCA during Library Legislative Week. Suggested date: April 11, 1995, Legislative Day.
- July, Pittsburgh, PA. NCLIS meeting in conjunction with the American Association of Law Libraries' National Conference on Legal Information Issues, July 15-18, 1995. (Commissioner Willard)
- Telephone conference call between October 1994 and February 1995.
- Telephone conference call between July and September 1995.

Internet Connection

To improve communication and to achieve greater access, Mr. Young and staff have been researching the costs and alternatives for connecting all Commissioners to the Internet. The goal, he stated, is for all Commissioners to be knowledgeable practitioners on the Internet and to provide for an NCLIS presence on the Internet.

Commissioner Lucchino suggested checking into guest accounts through various colleges, universities, state libraries, or similar entities.

Vice President Al Gore

Vice President Gore attended the meeting and congratulated those new Commissioners taking the oath of office. The Vice President stated, "NCLIS can be very important in inventorying challenges and in posing and responding to questions involving libraries in the National Information Infrastructure." A complete transcript of the Vice President's remarks is attached. See Attachment IV.

Chairperson Simon presented the Vice President with a copy of the new NCLIS study, Public Libraries and the Internet, autographed by the Commissioners and with an NCLIS logo pin. The Vice President admired Mrs. Simon's library lapel pin and she promised to send him one. He also noted the NCLIS publications on display: NCLIS Annual Report, FY 1992-93; 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services Final Report entitled *Information 2000: Libraries and Information Services for the 21st Century*, and Pathways to Excellence, Improving Library and Information Services for Native American Peoples.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

During lunch, Commissioners and staff had the opportunity to meet and briefly speak with Mrs. Clinton

President William Clinton

The President of the United States appeared briefly to say hello and to shake hands with the Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Attachments

- I. Summary, Commissioners' Statements on Principles to Guide Development of Future Federal Roles Relating to Libraries and Information Services**
- II Suggested Policy Directions Concerning the LSCA Draft Consensus Document**
- III State Department Contributions under 1994 ICSECA Program
NCLIS Proposals for Payment**
- IV Transcript, Vice President Gore's Remarks**

Summary
Commissioners' Statements on Principles to Guide Development
of Future Federal Roles Relating to Libraries and Information Services

1. The federal role should be limited to those activities that the states and local governments cannot effectively perform.
2. The federal government should lead and cooperate with state and local governments and public and private agencies in assuring optimum provision of library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people of the United States.
3. The funding of libraries is primarily a local responsibility and any federal funds should be for innovative projects or as a catalyst to spur additional local and/or state support.
4. State and local governments should be accountable to the federal government for the results of services supported with federal funds.
5. Whatever the federal government does to stimulate better libraries should include all kinds of libraries.
6. Any federal financial aid should be expended by a state-directed plan within a set of federal guidelines.

**Suggested Policy Directions Concerning the
LSCA Draft Consensus Document**

On addressing the "draft consensus document - Reinventing the Library and Construction Act" (5/23/94), the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science has identified the following as policy issues deserving federal support:

1. *Provision to all people of equal opportunity of access to information through projects that emphasize cooperation among libraries, multi-agency programs, resource sharing and linkages to the National Information Infrastructure.*
2. *Support for public library projects that emphasize national priorities, e.g., Americans with Disabilities Act, cultural diversity, children and youth, Goals 2000, life-long learning, workforce and economic development.*
3. *Projects that address both urban and rural library and information service needs.*
4. *Projects that emphasize continuing education, development of partnerships, standards, strategic planning, and cost sharing for computer systems and telecommunications.*

**State Department Contributions under 1994 ICSECA Program
NCLIS Proposals for Payment**

1994 Funding Activity Description	NCLIS Proposals
1. <u>U.S. National Committee to International Federation for Information and Documentation</u> - For partial support of U.S. National Committee participation in international information and documentation activities including international meetings	\$42,500
2. <u>U.S. National Archives and Records Administration</u> - For support of travel and other meeting costs relating to international archival activities	15,000
3. <u>National Information Standards Organization</u> - To support participation of U.S. experts in meetings to further the development and maintenance of international standards used in library and information services	43,500
4. <u>International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions</u> - For pre-IFLA Seminar in 1995 in Ankara on library administration in developing countries; for pre-conference Workshops in Malawi; for meeting in Africa of an association of Parliamentary Librarians	21,000
5. <u>Chen and Chen Consultants</u> - For partial support of a 7th International Conference on New Information Technology for Library and Information Professionals	20,000
6. <u>Library of Congress</u> - To support U.S. participation in UNESCO projects on the rehabilitation of national libraries and the operation of the International Center for International Standard Serial Numbers	30,000
7. <u>East Asian & Pacific Area International Relations Committee, ALA</u> - For partial support of travel to China to plan for China-USA pre-IFLA Library Conference in 1996	3,000
	\$175,000

**U. S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
Planning Meeting
Transcript of Remarks by Vice President Al Gore
29 July 1994**

NCLIS Chairperson Jeanne Simon:

"Welcome Mr. Vice President. We are happy that you are able to join us at this NCLIS meeting. Here is a copy of Annual Report of our Commission, along with copies of other documents and reports resulting from recent Commission activities.

"Would you like to say a few words to the Commission about the importance of connecting every school, every clinic, every library to the information superhighway?"

Vice President Al Gore:

"I wanted to come by, first of all, to congratulate the Commissioners on the swearing in earlier today and on the leadership of this Commission. We are delighted that you have agreed to serve as Commissioners, and we know the Commission is in excellent hands. We look forward to working with you.

"Secondly, I want to affirm to all of your colleagues that the National Information Infrastructure is a high priority for the President and the Administration. I happen to know that we have some very strong supporters on Capitol Hill, including Senator Simon, but that support is not limited to Senator Simon. As I remember, Representative Major Owens is a former librarian.

"I have spoken to various library groups in the past, and I guess my principal relationship with the library community has centered around the National Information Infrastructure. I am especially pleased to receive this information. "

At this point, Chairperson Simon presented Vice President Gore with a copy of the Commission's 1994 publication *Public Libraries and the Internet: Study Results, Policy Issues and Recommendations* autographed by Members of the Commission.

"From the very beginning of my advocacy of the information superhighway, dating back 16 years now, the vision that I have put forward that has been most resonant with people who have decided "Yes, this is something that seems to make sense", is one that involves libraries. I always talk about the young school child from Carthage, Tennessee, population 2,000. That child comes home after school and, instead of playing Nintendo, plugs into the Library of Congress and explores a whole universe of knowledge, electronic data, pictures, and images as well as words. There is no reason why we cannot make that vision a reality.

"There are many problems involved with the information superhighway. Yogi Berra once said, "What we have here is an insurmountable opportunity." I do not, however, believe this is necessarily true with the NII. And, to make sure the opportunity is not insurmountable, we have to be prepared to answer a long list of questions. The answers to these questions are necessary in order to evaluate the problems and to take advantage of the opportunities.

"But, there must be a concerted effort to ask the right questions, to inventory the challenges, and to come up with the best answers. There is a whole collection of questions relating to the role of libraries and the information superhighway, including copyright, telecommunications, connections, costs, technology, and so forth. This Commission can play an enormously important role in helping our country answer these questions. The Commission should ask those questions, inventory those challenges, and respond to the questions involving the role of libraries in the information superhighway."

Chairperson Simon then showed the Vice President a plaque presented to her earlier in the meeting made from the covers of two issues of *Library Journal*, one with a photograph of Senator Paul Simon and the second with a photograph of NCLIS Chairperson Jeanne Simon. Jeanne presented Mr. Gore with an NCLIS logo pin. The Vice President also received copies of the 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services Final Report *Information 2000: Library and Information Services for the 21st Century*, and the Commission's *Pathways to Excellence: Improving Library and Information Services for Native American Peoples*.

"Mike Nelson is with me today, and he has been working on all of these issues for many years. Mike has been my eyes and ears on this subject, Greg Simon is not here today (and no relation to either Senator Simon or Mrs. Simon; but, his greatest ambition is to one day have his photograph appear on the cover of *Library Journal* [referring to Senator Simon and Mrs. Simon's cover pictures). Greg Simon is my advisor on domestic policy and he also works with Mike on the issue of the information superhighway. Others in the White House are also working on these issues, but Mike is the point of contact for you."

The Vice President thanked Chairperson Simon and agreed to a photo session with Commissioners and staff. The Vice President again shook hands with the Commissioners, staff, and guests.