



United States
National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

**DRAFT MINUTES
NCLIS CONFERENCE CALL
JANUARY 19, 1995
11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

PARTICIPANTS: Martha Gould, Vice Chair; Daniel Casey; Shirley Adamovich; Carol DiPrete; Norman Kelson; Frank Lucchino; Kay Riddle; Bobby Roberts; Gary Sudduth; Winston Tabb; Barbara Taylor; Robert Willard; and Jeanne Hurley Simon, Presiding

UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE: Joel Valdez; Joan Challinor

STAFF: Peter R. Young, NCLIS Executive Director; Mary Alice Hedge, Associate Executive Director; Jane Williams, Research Associate; John Lorenz, Coordinator, Library Statistics Program, Kim Miller, Special Assistant, Technical; and Barbara Whiteleather, Special Assistant and Recording Secretary

Resolution Honoring Martha Gould

Motion

It was moved by Daniel Casey, seconded by Winston Tabb, to adopt a resolution honoring Martha Gould on the establishment of *Avenues to Adventure: A Fund for Children*, created in her honor on the occasion of her retirement. The resolution will be presented at a dinner honoring Martha Gould on January 24, 1995, in Reno, Nevada.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of the motion and its subsequent approval was held before Vice Chair Gould joined the conference call. A copy of the resolution is Attachment I.

Joan R. Challinor

Chairperson Simon reported that President Clinton has announced his appointment of Joan R. Challinor as a Member of the National Commission. Mrs. Challinor's nomination has been submitted to the Senate for confirmation. She is currently traveling in South Africa and could not participate in the conference call.

Chairperson Simon stated that Mrs. Challinor is an excellent addition to the Commission bringing with her a wonderful background, including a wealth of knowledge in the area of library and information services for women and older adults.

NCLIS Annual Report

The 1993-94 Annual Report has been received from the printer. Copies are being distributed to NCLIS' mailing list. Each Commissioner will receive ten copies of the report.

Libraries and the Internet/NII: Developing Cost Assessment Models

The Commissioners discussed the draft Project Outline for the Commission's 1995 study on Libraries and the Internet/NII: Developing Cost Assessment Models, prepared by Peter Young, 30 December 1994.

The proposed project concentrates on the development of cost models for different types of libraries (public, academic, research, networks, school, and state) and on providing practical cost alternatives and options. Mr. Young stated that the purpose of the project is to begin to itemize the new economics facing libraries after connectivity; not just what costs are involved with connecting to the Internet, but what costs need to be considered in

the future, e.g., equipment, terminals, training, digitization of resources, paper copies for circulation, license fees for accessing digital resources, etc.

In addition, Mr. Young stated, the project addresses issues in the changing economics of libraries and information services. This is critical since the future of LSCA is uncertain at this time. If there is to be a federal program for library and information services, NCLIS must be in a position to advise Congress about what support is required for future library connectivity. That data should be available for Congress to make informed decisions about the federal role.

Specific comments and concerns regarding the project were:

- The proposed Project Advisory Committee (PAC) is too complex; the report is too complex. (Vice Chair Gould)
- Duplication of effort. Much of this work has already been done at the state level; NCLIS need only pull that information together. Don't reinvent the wheel! Could project be accomplished by working closely with COSLA or through the states? (Vice Chair Gould)
- Mrs. DiPrete noted: (1) there is no consistent cost of connectivity; (2) there are many different configurations; (3) the scope of this study goes beyond public libraries; and (4) COSLA may have some of the needed information but not a broad spectrum of the issue.
- Be sure to include rural states and small libraries. (Mrs. Adamovich)
- Need clear direction before proceeding. (Mr. Sudduth)
- It is important to understand that there are hidden costs, i.e., borrowing services, and the costs for information flowing through the Internet, itself. (Mr. Willard)
- Regulatory issues are crucial. If you only look at the costs of connectivity, you will get a static measure of the present. (Mr. Roberts)
- Study should include a review of Public Service Commission (PSC) laws and regulations. What is needed is a twofold approach examining the role of the PSC vs. reality. (Vice Chair Gould)

- What has worked and what has not worked? Need to examine working models. (Mr. Roberts)
- Is the proposal a survey or policy? The outline is much too complex and elaborate. Perhaps it should be more in line with the Internet study. Better to have NCLIS serve as steering committee rather than establishing a formal advisory committee. (Mr. Tabb)
- Ms. Hedge cautioned that advisory committees fall under the regulations of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
- Generate acceptance by the lay and professional library communities by including lay persons on the advisory committee. If you have broad-base participation, you have broad-base support. (Mr. Casey)
- The proposal is the right direction, but we need to be specific about expected conclusions. (Mrs. Riddle)
- Using the technology that we are studying, establish a World-Wide Web home page to allow community interest, access, and participation. (Mr. Willard)
- Find out what states are doing by calling State Librarians. I do not see this as our job. Should not spend \$55,000 (5 percent of NCLIS' budget) on this project. (Mr. Lucchino).
- Chairperson Simon reminded the Members that NCLIS' mission is to advise the President and Congress on library and information services policies. She stated, "We are going to be on the firing line with this new Congress, and I would like to be able to present concrete study results."

After hearing the above comments, Mr. Young agreed to refine and revise the proposal to clarify intended purposes and the role of the Commission.

Motion

Moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Shirley Adamovich, to approve Phase I of the Project Outline: Libraries and the Internet/NII: Developing Cost Assessment Models, dated 30 December 1994. Phase I involves site visits to selected "best practice" libraries in order to obtain information about institutional costs incurred with implementing connections to the Internet.

Following completion of Phase I, the Commission will discuss proceeding with future proposed project activities.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Postal Service Kiosk Pilot Project

Chairperson Simon reported that she and Mr. Young attended a U.S. Postal Service (USPS) seminar on 13 January 1995. Susan Smoter, Project Manager for the Kiosk Pilot Project, served as the USPS spokesperson, USPS representatives have been invited to attend the Commission's February meeting in Annapolis, Maryland on Friday, February 24, 1995..

Chairperson Simon stated that by the conclusion of the seminar she was convinced that USPS is not infringing on the work of the libraries, rather their intent is to work with libraries in developing kiosks available to the general public.

Internet Connections and Computers for Commissioners

Computer and Internet training for Commissioners, using the actual computer equipment which they will be receiving on loan from NCLIS, will be held at the NCLIS office on Wednesday, February 22, 1995, from 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m. The staff is planning to use a "buddy system" for the hands-on training and for "surfing the Internet." Mr. Willard has volunteered to be a teacher/trainer. Other Commissioners wishing to volunteer, should contact Kim or Barbara, who are planning this training.

NCLIS Staff

Mr. Young reported that Kim Miller, Mimie Rutledge, and Barbara Whiteleather were sworn-in as Administratively Determined employees, providing them with full benefits, on December 12, 1994.

Vice Chair Gould requested that the three employees receive credit for earned sick/annual leave and for time in-service. Ms. Hedge informed the Commission that she is working with the Department of Education on this situation and will present a progress report at the February meeting.

Pre-White House Conference for Older Adults

The NCLIS and ALA co-sponsored Pre-White House Conference for Older Adults will be held 3 February 1995 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Commissioners attending the Pre-Conference are: Daniel Casey; Martha Gould; Gary Sudduth; and Robert Willard.

NCLIS Meeting in Pittsburgh, 14-16 July 1995

Final plans are underway for the Commission to meet in conjunction with the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Friday and Saturday, 14-15 July 1995. Commissioners are encouraged to attend the National Conference on Legal Information Issues meeting on Sunday.

Mr. Lucchino suggested members of AALL be invited to meet with the Commission, perhaps in the form of a forum. Mr. Young and Mr. Willard will follow up on this suggestion and report back at the February meeting.

Plans for Celebrating NCLIS' 25th Anniversary Year

Commissioner Taylor, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, reported on plans for celebrating NCLIS' 25th anniversary year. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee are: Kay Riddle; Bobby Roberts; Gary Sudduth; Robert Willard; and Jane Williams (staff).

The Committee recommends that various forms of celebrations take place from 20 July 1995 (the 25th anniversary of the signing of PL 91-345) to 20 September 1996 (the anniversary date of the first meeting of the Commission). During the Committee's conference call, 17 January 1995; the following topics were discussed: (1) an appropriate logo; (2) preparation of a report highlighting achievements and accomplishments; (3) proclamations from officials (messages of congratulations); (4) a contest for nominees for 25 individual achievement awards; (5) conducting hearings on contributions of library and information services, including LSCA; (6) showing of videos of federally funded projects; (7) possible sources of funding; and (8) demonstrating NCLIS' cost effectiveness; NCLIS is the most cost-effective agency in the government!

Further details will be discussed at the February meeting, following a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Second Phase of the National Performance Review

Chairperson Simon expressed her concern about the second phase of the National Performance Review, as outlined in a memorandum for heads of executive departments agencies, from Vice President Gore dated 3 January 1995. To quote, in part, the memo states:

"To begin this fundamental rethinking of what the federal government should do and how it should do it, I would like each of you immediately to form a team in your agency to review everything you do, asking:

“(1) If your agency were eliminated, how would the goals of programs of your agency be undertaken — by other agencies, by states or localities, by the private sector, or not at all?”

“The President and I believe absolutely in federal workers. But these workers face uncertain times.”

In addition, Ms. Williams reported that Congress is considering FY 1995 recisions and that reductions will come in discretionary program funding (meaning non-military, non-Medicare, and non-Social Security).

Chairperson Simon stated, “We are a permanent Commission established by public law; not an advisory committee! We have a lot going for us. Mr. Lucchino agreed, adding, “the Commission has a national perspective that no other agency has.”

Topics for the February Meeting

- **Report on the Library Services and Technology Act - Vice Chair Gould
--Indepth discussion on the Task Force's draft document, including the future role of the federal government.**
- **Status Report on NCLIS employees - Ms. Hedge**

The conference call ended at 12:45 p.m.

Attachment: NCLIS Resolution Honoring Martha Gould



U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Resolution
Honoring
Martha B. Gould

WHEREAS The Honorable Martha B. Gould was appointed to the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science by President William J. Clinton on 14 November 1993, bringing a wealth of experience gained through a distinguished professional career in both public and state libraries; and

WHEREAS Martha Gould began her library career as a children's librarian at the New York Public Library; and

WHEREAS Martha's love and concern for libraries, children, reading, and freedom remains as evident today as it was forty years ago; and

WHEREAS Martha was named Librarian of the Year in September, 1993 by the Nevada Library Association in recognition of her outstanding contributions to libraries serving citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, on 30 December 1994 Martha retired as Director of the Washoe County Library, in Reno, Nevada after 21 years of service to Nevada's libraries, and is lovingly called, "*A Unique Person who Transformed the Town.*" Now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the members of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science that Martha B. Gould is a model for the profession and that her skill, determination, commitment, and style, have been, and will continue to be, an inspiration and gift to the Citizens of Nevada, to the libraries of the Nation, and to her colleagues on the National Commission Libraries and Information Science.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That Martha's dear friends and admiring colleagues wish her much happiness, continued health, and abounding success in the establishment of *Avenues to Adventure: A Fund for Children*, created in her honor on the occasion of her retirement to support special programs and activities for children in Washoe County Library branches.

Adopted on 19 January 1995 by the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.