



United States
National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

DRAFT
NCLIS MINUTES

June 25-26, 1998
Washington, DC

Members present Jeanne Hurley Simon, Chairperson; Martha Gould, Vice Chair, C. E. "Abe" Abramson, Walter Anderson (on 6/25), James Billington (on 6/26), Rebecca Bingham, Joan Challinor, Diane Frankel, Mary Furlong (on 6/25), Jose-Marie Griffiths, Frank Lucchino (on 6/25), Bobby Roberts, and Winston Tabb (on 6/26)

Members not present LeVarBurton
 Joel Valdez

Staff and consultants present Robert S. Willard, Executive Director; Howard Harris, NCLIS Consultant; F. Woody Horton, NCLIS Consultant; Judith Russell, NCLIS Consultant; and Barbara L. Whiteleather, Recording Secretary

Guests and observers present Walker Bass, Office of Presidential Personnel; Rookaya Bawa, Librarian, South Africa; Charles Benton, NCLIS Chairman Emeritus and President, The Benton Foundation; John Berry, *Library Journal*; John Bertot, University of Maryland-Baltimore; Mamie Bittner, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS); Andrew Blau, The Benton Foundation; Beth Bingham, Baton Rouge, LA; Giuliana Bullard, IMLS; Mary Costabile, American Library Association; Griff Garwood of Ruder Finn; Margo Huber, IMLS; Robert Klassen, Office of Library Services, IMLS; Bridget Lamont, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies; Eileen Maloy, U.S. Information Agency; Ann Molod (Martha Gould's sister); Peyton Neal, Information Industry Association; Thomas Snyder, Argonne National Laboratory; Laura Springer of Ruder Finn; Betsy Sywetz, IMLS; Carmine Trotter, White House Conference on Library and Information Services; Trellis Wright, Library of Congress

Thursday, June 25, 1998
The Benton Foundation
The Richard M. Neustadt Center for Communications
in the Public Interest

Opening Comments

Jeanne Hurley Simon, NCLIS Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and welcomed the Commissioners, staff, guests and observers.

Mr. Willard mentioned that the Center was named in honor of Richard M. "Rick" Neustadt, who died in a rafting accident several years ago. Mr. Neustadt served as the White House "policy person" responsible for communications and policy. "He was a good friend and a great person. I am delighted that the Benton Foundation has honored him by dedicating this wonderful facility in his name. We thank the Benton Foundation for inviting NCLIS to meet here."

Approval of Agenda

MOTION

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Joan Challinor, to approve the draft NCLIS meeting agenda, as revised.

The motion carried unanimously.

NCLIS/ALA Informal Dinner

Chairperson Simon reported on the informal dinner with several NCLIS Members and leaders from the American Library Association (ALA) held the previous evening, June 24. The group heard presentations by the ALA Intellectual Property Committee, and lively discussions were held which, in turn, set some parameters for today's discussion on the issue of children and the Internet. "We are on the cutting edge of this important issue," Chairperson Simon stated. A fall hearing on this issue is planned, probably in connection with the Freedom Forum, Arlington, Virginia. Mr. Anderson will address this topic later in the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Working Group on Issues of Journal Pricing, Publishing and Copyright

Commissioner José-Marie Griffiths, Chair, Working Group on Issues of Journal Pricing, Publishing and Copyright, reported on the first meeting, June 24, 1998, held in the NCLIS conference room. The full report is attached (Attachment I).

In summary, Commissioner Griffiths recommended that NCLIS undertake the following four actions:

1. Identify available and ongoing research related to the issues.
2. Conduct a series of discussions in individual meetings with various stakeholder groups, the publishers, authors, universities, and library communities.
3. Bring the stakeholder groups together to discuss their relative means, positions, issues, and concerns, creating a forum for those issues and concerns.
4. Produce a report with recommendations that would be widely disseminated.

Following the report, Commissioner Abramson stated, "It is never too early to examine this issue. The dissemination of scholarly research -- as we know it -- can be destroyed if experiences over the next ten years are the same as the last ten years." Commissioner Roberts advised caution, asking, "Where is the impact on access to information? Is the impact on the budget or on the access? What literature searches have been conducted? What is available?"

Commissioner Challinor stated that her opinion on this issue is "on hold" until hearing from the publishers and until determining how prices are established. Commissioner Griffiths agreed on the importance of hearing from the publishing and academic communities.

The need for additional resources was emphasized, perhaps through foundation support, cooperative endeavors, collaborative efforts, graduate student assistance, etc. Commissioner Abramson stated, "I want to have impact; I do not want to provide input. If we cannot provide impact on this issue, I do not want to provide resources."

Chairperson Simon noted that the Commission's enabling legislation, Public Law 91-345, Sec. 5 (a) (2), states "the Commission shall . . . conduct studies, surveys, and analyses of the library and informational needs of the Nation"

Commissioner Anderson suggested that the plan, as recommended by Commissioner Griffiths, be adopted and, further, that the Working Group work closely with the Executive Director in implementing the initial steps in the plan.

Reporting that the FY 1999 budget is in place, Mr. Willard stated that recommendations (1) and (2) above are "low-cost" projects which can easily go forward. By September, however, a plan should be in place for recommendations (3) and (4), which could require a year's work and effort.

MOTION

It was moved by Abe Abramson, seconded by Martha Gould, that the plan put forth by Commissioner Griffiths be adopted and, further, that the Working Group work with the Executive Director to implement initial steps in the plan.

The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee

Vice Chair Gould, Chair, Personnel Committee, reported:

- (1) Robert Willard became the NCLIS Executive Director and resigned as a Member of the Commission on June 24, 1998.
- (2) The position description for the Deputy Director is complete.
- (3) The annual evaluation process for the Executive Director is nearing completion.
- (4) The NCLIS Administration Manual will be revised and updated.

Vice Chair Gould pointed out that Members will be asked to vote on a Resolution regarding Delegation of Authority to the Chairperson and the Executive Director (copy in NCLIS meeting folder). The resolution updates, clarifies and reaffirms the delegation of authority from the Commission to the Chairperson, and provides a comprehensive delegation of authority to the Executive Director based on the major responsibilities in the recently-completed position description. Commissioners were requested to review the document in preparation for later discussion.

Vice Chair Gould thanked the members of the Personnel Committee and Judy Russell for their valued assistance.

Federal Depository Library Program Study

F. Woody Horton, NCLIS consultant to the NCLIS Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) study, presented an update on the study.

In early May, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) contracts office provided the study contractor, Westat, Inc., with a list of questions pertaining to the Request for Proposal (RFP). At NCES' request, NCLIS and GPO reviewed the Westat proposal and made suggestions for clarification and amplification. Responses were received from Westat on May 18, 1998, and these answers have been reviewed by NCES, NCLIS and GPO to determine whether they are fully responsive to the government's concerns.

The good news is that a compromise has been reached on the three most critical issues on which the government and the contractor initially disagreed. Specifically, the contractor has compressed its overall timeline from 48 weeks to 35 weeks, increased the agency sample to be surveyed from 12 to 20 agencies, and agreed to undertake several tasks simultaneously rather than sequentially.

On May 29, the government advised NCES of its approval and asked that the task contract be awarded as soon as possible. NCES informed the government that it expected the award in early June.

At the request of Francis Buckley, the Superintendent of Documents, Gil Baldwin will be GPO's primary contact for this study, working in close coordination with T. C. Evans, director of the Electronic Information staff.

On June 6, 1998, letters will be sent to selected Agency Chief Information Officers to enlist support in identifying specific products to be included in their final submissions, and obtaining detailed data on each product to be used in the assessment. In addition, two half-day general orientation briefings will be held July 23 and August 4 in the Richard C. Neustadt Center at the Benton Foundation in Washington, DC.

Finally, by early September following extensive pre-testing, we will begin data collection using the approved version of the survey instrument. The first findings will flow from the study on October 14, and a presentation will be made to the Federal Depository Library Council at their fall conference on October 20. An interim progress report is projected for later this summer.

The overall study was conceived in three stages and we are now in Stage II, with all the players and pieces in place. Stage II has three objectives: (1) Identify medium and format standards; (2) assess cost-effectiveness of alternative mediums and formats; and (3) identify public and private standards for use throughout a product's entire information life cycle. A preliminary report will be presented in October, and NCLIS must then decide how to proceed with Stage III," Mr. Horton reported. The final report from stage II is due February 1999.

In summary, Mr. Willard stated, "This has the potential to be one of the most important projects ever undertaken by the Commission. The fact base developed from

this effort will be viewed as a landmark product, and perhaps even a baseline for future comparisons. To entities both inside and outside of the government, it will serve as 'the source of knowledge' for moving from a largely paper-based information environment into a largely electronic-based environment. And, it will hopefully reduce the access burden on users significantly."

Millennium

Commissioner Lucchino, Chair, Millennium Committee, reported that Ellen Lovell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Advisor to the First Lady for the Millennium Project, The White House, did not respond to his letter, which outlined: (1) the importance of the public's awareness to the role of libraries in the 21st century; (2) the future of America's libraries; and (3) NCLIS' desire to work with the White House in celebrating the new millennium. Commissioner Lucchino reported that Commissioner Burton indicated his willingness to assist in a specific NCLIS millennium project.

Commissioner Lucchino urged, "Our story of libraries is too good not to be told. We cannot give up." He then requested that Mr. Willard, as the NCLIS Executive Director based in Washington, follow-up on this project with the White House. Mr. Willard noted that the Millennium Project appears to be the First Lady's top priority. The theme of the project is one to be committed to memory: *Treasure the Past; Imagine the Future*. Mr. Willard asked, "What better place for libraries to play an important role?" He offered to make this a priority project; Commissioner Challinor volunteered her assistance on this project.

Vice Chair Gould stated that in many, many instances, libraries provide an electronic lifeline to information. She then described a proposal she envisions for technology/children/and the future -- a national program video-teleconference. In effect, this project would bring hundreds of librarians, teachers, parents and children together to discuss the role libraries play in their lives, how libraries impact on their future, and the importance of the education process, with emphases on the small city and rural public, school and academic libraries.

Commissioner Anderson stated, "Our goal is to help the country be acutely aware of the miracle of libraries in the past and their potential in the future." He and Commissioner Challinor stressed the importance of 'keeping it simple' and 'straight to the point' when dealing with the White House. Commissioner Anderson suggested that NCLIS team with other millennium ventures underway. It is not too early for NCLIS to contact various networks, e.g., PBS, to offer assistance, ideas and people (including, but not limited to, Commissioner Burton) to demonstrate the value of libraries.

Mr. Willard reported the White House's concern that they are not aware of the many millennium projects being developed nationally. Samples of international millennium projects are available, however, no data base exists for state and local-levels

projects. Mr. Willard stated, "What better place to accumulate a data base than at the state library level? This provides a great opportunity to show what libraries can do in terms of networking with constituencies and organizing information in a meaningful way." Mr. Willard also mentioned that he has briefly discussed this project with Bridget Lamont, Illinois State Librarian.

Commissioner Lucchino asked several questions: What role will the library carve out for itself in the next century? How can we articulate that role? How can we articulate the roles that libraries play in educating people and in lifting people from poverty? Nothing in society provides the same role as libraries. "We should be talking about: *Imagine the Future; Imagine the Role that Libraries Can Play in that Future,*" he said. Chairperson Simon applauded Commissioner Lucchino for bringing to the Commission his perspective on the underprivileged, and the need for interaction by libraries on their behalf.

Mary Costabile, American Library Association Washington Office, described the Muncie [Indiana] Public Library Cybermobile on display during ALA's conference. The cybermobile project was made possible by a \$50,000 grant from the Federal Library Services and Technology Act awarded to Muncie Public Library by the Indiana State Library. With the Cybermobile the library will demonstrate and teach Internet skills to children, the disadvantaged, the elderly and others by networking with a variety of community groups to reach as wide an audience as possible.

Commissioner Furlong asked, "What if we created the 'library of the future' and invited people to come? A complete library of the future with the necessary information skills to navigate through information technology." Vice Chair Gould added that the proposed project should 'showcase' the growth of technology by home schoolers, the linking of classrooms with area networks, distance teaching, etc.

Commissioner Lucchino offered to continue to work on the Millennium project with the assistance of Commissioner Challinor and Mr. Willard.

NCLIS Action Plan

The revised NCLIS Action Plan (4/98) was distributed. Plans call for the Plan to be published as an 'Exposure Draft,' on NCLIS' web page and through other channels to solicit public input. Mr. Willard pointed out that this Plan is flexible enough to allow for NCLIS to undertake additional concerns, e.g., scholarly publishing falls under Goal 1: *NCLIS will promote the needs of the people of the U.S. for extended and improved library and information services delivered through the national and global information infrastructure.*

Mr. Willard stated that the Plan serves as a helpful tool in stating the Commission's mission. Commissioner Abramson suggested that the Plan be reviewed

and discussed annually. Mr. Willard noted that the April 1999 NCLIS meeting is a planning meeting and the appropriate time to revisit the Plan.

ALA/NCLIS Public Libraries and the Internet Study

Professor John Carlo Bertot, School of Information Science and Policy, University of Albany, State University of New York, reported on the ALA/NCLIS 1998 National Study of Public Library Outlet Connectivity being conducted by Bertot and Professor Charles McClure, School of Information Studies, Syracuse University.

As background, Professor Bertot explained the ALA Washington Office for Information Technology Policy, in conjunction with NCLIS and the Gates Library Foundation, commissioned a study in April 1998 to determine the extent of public library Internet connectivity at the outlet level. This study, the fifth in a series, builds upon previous studies conducted by ALA and NCLIS in 1997, 1996, 1995 and 1994, although this effort focuses on individual library branches (outlets) rather than individual library systems.

As of June 23, the study has achieved a 75.7% response rate. However, the findings are based on the responses from 73.8% of the returned surveys, and percentages will likely change in the final report, perhaps 1% to 2%.

Overall, the data shows that:

- 83.8% of public library outlets have some type of Internet connection. Connectivity, however, varies by metropolitan status, with fewer rural public library outlets having an Internet connection (78.7%) than suburban public libraries (87.8%), and urban public libraries (91.5%).
- 87.1% of the connected public library outlets provide public access to the Internet.
- Most public library outlet public access services have a maximum speed of 56kbps (31.9%) followed by T1 (1.45mbps) service (22.0%), and 28.8kbps (16.0%). It was noted that maximum speed is a prime benefit in that patrons do not become discouraged by waiting for images to load.

In summary, the data demonstrate that public library Internet connectivity is not equal across public library outlets. The differences are less due to poverty issues as opposed to geographic location. In general, rural library outlets have less connectivity and less bandwidth.

Professor Bertot stated that additional data analysis will be included in the final report expected in late July 1998. He expressed his desire to continue the collaborative efforts for future studies, even though he has left the University of Maryland-Baltimore and is now at SUNY.

A copy of the 1998 National Study of Public Library Outlet Connectivity: Preliminary Results is attached (Attachment II).

The Members discussed with Professor Bertot the impact of the AT&T-TCI merger. With the \$48 billion takeover of cable TV giant Tele-Communications Inc. by AT&T, theoretically high-speed Internet service can be expected.

Bridget Lamont, NCLIS Liaison for COSLA, applauded the Commission for its successive Internet surveys and encouraged the Commission to work with COSLA and other organizations to continue the dialogue and to learn 'the rest of the story'. Three next-step survey areas of particular concern to state librarians are:

- (1) Impact -- personal or institutional.
- (2) Use -- number of stations (what is enough in today's libraries?).
- (3) Budget implication -- connected, but turned on for one hour a day because of budgets.

Mr. Willard noted that an upcoming report by Howard Harris, NCLIS Consultant, relates to Ms. Lamont's concerns.

Sister Libraries

Commissioner Challinor specifically requested that staff continue to build its database on sister libraries.

Library Statistics Program

Howard Harris, consultant to NCLIS in the area of library statistics, described the status of his report to the Commission entitled, Assessment of and Planning for NCLIS role in Library Statistics Cooperative Program (LSCP). The report is complete and Commissioners reviewed the Executive Summary of the Report at their last meeting. NCLIS is sending copies of the report to the technical working groups of librarians who assist in developing and maintaining individual ongoing LSCP library surveys for their comment and plans to take their comments into account as NCLIS moves forward with its plans for the library statistics area.

The NCES/NCLIS Library Cooperative Statistics Program historically has gathered survey data on six different types of library organizations. Surveys focused on public libraries and state libraries take place each year. In April 1998, for example, NCES released in pre-print form tabulated data from the 1995 survey of public libraries.

The library community has expressed some concern about the long interval between data collection and the public availability of the data from NCES. For example, NCES surveys academic libraries every two years. This fall, an academic library survey will take place, and NCES plans to release the 1994 academic library survey data. Timeliness of NCES release of library data represents a significant issue in the minds of the library community. The American Library Association Committee on Research and Statistics will hold a hearing at this ALA Conference regarding the issue of timeliness of NCES release of library data.

In the school library media area, NCES conducts a sample survey covering school library media centers every five years. NCES expects to make the full results from the 1994 survey available some time this year. NCES expects to conduct a pilot survey of school library media centers in 1998/1999 and a complete sample survey in 1999/2000.

A survey of library cooperatives, representing organizations that assist groups of libraries in providing services, takes place every five years. NCES expects to make data from the 1996 survey available later this year.

NCES has conducted one survey of federal libraries, and descriptions of the Library Statistics Cooperative Program indicate that this survey takes place every five years. According to that schedule, a survey of federal libraries in 1999 should take place. Inquiries to NCES indicate that a federal library survey is not budgeted at this time.

NCES has recently undergone personnel changes in the area of library statistics. Bob Willard and Howard Harris recently met with those now in charge of the program and look forward to working closely with NCES to strengthen the Library Statistics Cooperative Program. This initial meeting led to additional funding related to this end and commitment to some planning work to take a look at Internet connectivity in schools and school library media centers based on NCLIS experience with the multi-year series of National Surveys of U.S. Public Libraries and the Internet.

NCES also has underway two contractor projects of interest to the library statistics area: (1) the development of cost and price indices for public libraries; and (2) geocoding public libraries and producing public library service area boundary files.

Commissioners Challinor and Bingham expressed concern over the plight of the school library media center and with budget cuts related to media center purchasing and funding of trained school library media personnel. Commissioner Abramson indicated that in Montana, local schools no longer have to certify that they have trained school library media personnel. Howard Harris mentioned a study described in the most recent Library Policy Forum that established a clear relationship between library skills and use and academic performance. Commissioner Bingham added that conditions such as these have caused a drop in programs to educate school library media specialists and that, "we at the national level need to change this trend, because we are only hurting ourselves." Several Commissioners addressed both the difficulties and the promise of geocoding

public library outlets and using that as the basis for understanding the demographics of a library's service area.

Office of Presidential Personnel

Walker Bass, Deputy Associate Director, White House Office of Presidential Personnel, spoke briefly, stating, "It has been a wonderful opportunity to work on several NCLIS appointments. I appreciate the patience shown in what can be called a very grueling process. And, I promise you, we will work on future appointments as quickly as we can within the framework we are given. It's fun to see first-hand the enthusiasm and dedication of the NCLIS Members."

On behalf of the Commission, Chairperson Simon expressed appreciation to Mr. Bass for his continuing assistance and advice.

The Benton Foundation

Chairperson Simon introduced Charles H. Benton, President, The Benton Foundation, and NCLIS Chairman Emeritus, and expressed the Commission's appreciation to be meeting in the Neustadt Center. The Chairperson stated that NCLIS and the Benton Foundation are striving to build a coalition by working together on projects of mutual interest and concern.

Using a power-point presentation, Program Director Andrew Blau, explained that the Benton Foundation is the legacy of William Benton, father of Charles Benton, established to: (1) define the public interest in the information age; (2) empower people to act on behalf of children; (3) build community through public service media; and (4) create tools to take on the toughest issues. The Foundation is a 'hybrid' organization -- a grantmaker, but also a grantseeker.

In summary, new research from the Benton Foundation confirms the public's faith in traditional library services, and the suggested key messages follow:

- Put high touch before high tech.
- Root technology in books and reading.
- Portray librarians as information navigators.
- Build trust in the benefits of technology.
- Connect libraries with parenting.

A copy of Mr. Blau's presentation was included in the NCLIS meeting notebook, Tab E.

Mr. Blau referred to the 1996 publication prepared by the Benton Foundation, funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, entitled, Buildings, books and bytes: Libraries and communities in the digital age. [Commissioners previously received the report.] In addition, the Foundation has conducted and analyzed six focus groups, summarized in a follow-up report entitled Libraries in the Balance, scheduled for publication in July 1998. In addition, a toolkit of materials has been created that demonstrates the application of this research to traditional communications vehicles, from Op-eds to speeches.

In summary, Mr. Blau stated, "The Foundation is looking to strengthen community-based institutions that are committed to access in the information age. We are looking at what is happening today and what is needed for tomorrow, and discussing how to communicate the value of libraries in the new electronic environment. We want to examine how the Foundation's goals and programs can relate to those of NCLIS.

Charles Benton, President, The Benton Foundation, and NCLIS Chairman Emeritus, welcomed the Commission to the Neustadt Center and praised individuals on their accomplishments and work in the field of library and information services. He recalled some of NCLIS's past activities, in particular, the: (1) 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services, (2) NCLIS hearings on the improvement of the Library Services and Construction Act; and (3) work of the Public Sector/Private Sector Task Force and its 1982 report, Public Sector/Private Sector Interaction in Providing Information Services. He encouraged Commissioners to re-read this report as the information is still invaluable. Mr. Benton praised the Congress for creating the Institute of Museum and Library Services Act and, in particular, the part of the legislation which calls for annual NCLIS/National Museum Services Board meetings to provide advice on financial assistance.

Mr. Benton commented on the NCLIS Action Plan which he praised for its narrow focus, stating, "The key to success is focus, focus, focus". He noted, however, that the Plan does not specifically address higher education.

Mr. Benton also complimented the Commission for its ongoing work in library statistics, the establishment of the Library Statistics Program, and the five surveys on public libraries and the Internet. "Remember," he said, "Information is power".

Chairperson Simon expressed appreciation to Mr. Benton for his insightful comments and historical perspectives which, "makes us realize how small NCLIS is, but how powerful we can be."

Children and the Internet

Commissioner Anderson reported on the previous night's dinner with several ALA and NCLIS Members. He stated that through a variety of presentations, ALA demonstrated their concern about children and the Internet, specifically filtering versus non-filtering. In summary, it is the ALA's belief that:

- Over the last five years, dramatic changes have taken place in cost, expenses, technology, and in people's behavior in the library.
- Information should be received in an unrestricted manner.
- Filtering in all forms is wrong, for two reasons: (1) The First Amendment; and (2) Technically, filtering does not work.
- The responsibility for children lies with the parents.

Commissioner Anderson responded to the last stated ALA belief: "The responsibility for children lies with the parents." This, he noted, sounds like Ozzie and Harriet Nelson's family. Mr. Anderson then stated the following startling statistics:

- (1) In 1960, 40 percent of mothers/fathers stayed home with their children; today that number is less than 4 percent.
- (2) Twenty years ago, 1 in 15 children lived with neither mother/father; today 1 in 9 live with neither mother/father.
- (3) The birthrate to single parents is more than one third; in some cities, it is 50 or 60 percent, including Washington, DC.

"I state these statistics because the families that ALA is talking about, do not really exist," he stated.

Because of the direct relation to the ALA/NCLIS dinner discussion, Commissioner Anderson repeated the key findings, consistent across groups, contained in the Benton Foundation publication, The Future's in the Balance:

- (1) Americans hold libraries in high esteem.
- (2) Americans cautiously welcome the introduction of computers.
- (3) Americans want reassurance the traditional library they love will not vanish in the wake of technological change.
- (4) Americans believe libraries mean children and children's services.
- (5) Children trust their librarian and count on this person to provide personal guidance to books and information.
- (6) Research recognizes the powerful connection Americans make between libraries and effective parenting.

- (7) Libraries that emphasize technology over books will lose their base.
- (8) Many people are afraid of technology, and are afraid it will replace reading.

Commissioner Anderson stated, "I know what ALA Board's position is. But we do not know whether this position represents or serves librarians in the field. Librarians in the field, for example, make material choices daily (they do not buy all books or all video cassettes available; nor do they usually make available all television programs). I fear that the ALA leadership's position is directed to a family that no longer exists, if, in fact, it ever existed at all. Further, I do not see how the ALA's unqualified support of 'unrestricted access' supports a librarian in the community who has to deal with practical everyday problems. Many children who are poor, without family support, and do not have a computer at home, will go to a library to use its facilities. Not surprisingly, thus, a predatory pedophile can see a library as an opportunity to seek out children, particularly those poor and most vulnerable of children."

Commissioner Anderson then asked, "Do we, as adults, have a responsibility solely to our own children--or, as adults, do we have a responsibility to all children?" He answered his own question by stating, "I would argue that we have a responsibility to all children. We know that pedophiles use the web to locate vulnerable children, and these same pedophiles also encourage the use of language in insidious ways. For example, the words, 'child pornography.' A child cannot give informed consent. Thus, a picture of a child in a sexual act with an adult is not 'child pornography,' as a pedophile would like it described. Rather, it is evidence of a felony crime in every one of our 50 states."

Commissioner Anderson stated that the purpose of the proposed NCLIS hearing is to solicit wide points of view of this important and critical issue. After this hearing, NCLIS will be in a position to present specific suggestions that librarians can use within their local libraries. "If librarians do not deal with this important problem, they will lose their 'good will' and become part of the problem, not the solution," he stated. The Commission hearing will bring forth practical information useful to librarians. He stated the importance of inviting speakers with diverse opinions, to which the Commissioners may or not agree. Commissioner Anderson encouraged participation by all Commissioners.

Vice Chair Gould suggested involving several national organizations, e.g., the National Association for Missing and Exploited Children, the Parent-Teacher Organization, the Women's Political Caucus, etc. "Even more importantly, we need to hear from the front-line librarians, teachers, social workers, and from the 'non-Ozzie and Harriet family' who deal with the issue on a daily basis," she stated.

Commissioner Lucchino urged the Commission to hold this hearing, stating, "To me, the biggest threat to public libraries is pornography. There is no way that I, as an elected official, can stand before parents and say that I advocate the right of children to seek pornography in the library. That cannot be justified". Commissioner Anderson

agreed, and challenged Commissioners to check out how easy pornography can be obtained on the Internet.

Commissioner Furlong stated that Internet pornography is a major concern to older Americans. In addition, she encouraged educating parents as many are unaware of their child's easy access to Internet pornography, as well as through unwanted and unsolicited e-mail.

Commissioner Abramson agreed that this hearing is appropriate for NCLIS "to heighten the consciousness and to enlarge the conversation." The central issue, he noted, is violations of the law that injure children.

The fall hearing is tentatively planned in conjunction with the Newseum, The Freedom Forum's Interactive Museum of News, in Arlington, Virginia. [The Freedom Forum is a nonpartisan international foundation dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit for all people. Its mission is to help the public and the news media understand one another better.] As required, the forum will be published in the Federal Register. In addition, NCLIS News Releases will be issued.

Mr. Benton encouraged the Commission to "take the lead" on this issue and suggested that the Benton Foundation and NCLIS could work together.

Other specific suggestions for the hearing were:

- Squeeze the 'hourglass' to get to the point. (Challinor)
- Bring in key technology people to tell how preventive measures can be created. Encourage a variety of groups. (Griffiths)
- Review the history of the v-chip as background for the hearing. (Benton)

In summary, Commissioner Anderson stated, in part, "We have a chance to represent real children with real faces, real lives. And if we help one librarian to save a child in harm's way, our hearings will have been well worth the effort."

The Chairperson asked Commissioners Bingham, Lucchino and Roberts to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee on Child Abuse in the Digital Environment. Members of the Committee are: Walter Anderson, Chair; Rebecca Bingham; LeVar Burton; Frank Lucchino; and Bobby Roberts.

Virginia Mathews, a library advocate and NCLIS guest, encouraged NCLIS to issue a statement emphasizing the important role of libraries in the lives of America's children. Ms. Mathews spoke of the recent outbreak of children venting rage and anger by killing parents, teachers and schoolmates. She urged that our society -- officials and educators at all levels, community leaders, parents and other adult caregivers, confidants and role models -- utilize the vast potential of libraries in assisting adults, youth and

children to seek positive outcomes through wise use of information. "Libraries offer lifegiving to children who are unhappy, angry, afraid, lost or suicidal," Ms. Mathews stated.

Chairperson Simon suggested that Commissioner Bingham and Ms. Mathews work together to prepare a resolution on this topic for Commission approval the following day. Noting that several Commissioners would not be present the following day, Mr. Anderson called for the Chairperson's appropriate discretion in approving such resolution. A statement on this topic prepared by Ms. Mathews was distributed.

MOTION

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Walter Anderson, that Commissioner Bingham prepare a resolution on the important role of libraries in the lives of America's children, based upon the statement prepared by Virginia Mathews.

The motion carried.

Approval of NCLIS Minutes

MOTION

It was moved by Frank Lucchino, seconded by Abe Abramson, to approve the draft minutes of the NCLIS meeting, April 7-8, 1998, Linda Hall Library, Kansas City, Missouri, be approved as distributed.

The motion carried unanimously.

Delegation of Authority

At Mr. Willard's suggestion, the Commission approved a resolution to update, clarify and reaffirm the delegation of authority from the Commission to the Chairperson. The resolution also provides a comprehensive delegation of authority to the Executive Director, based on the major responsibilities in the recently completed position description. The resolution was included in the NCLIS notebook, Tab I.

MOTION

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Abe Abramson, to approve the NCLIS resolution regarding delegation of authority to the Chairperson and the Executive Director.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Abramson suggested that a future discussion be held on NCLIS by-laws.

NCLIS Meeting Schedule

The proposed meeting schedule for FY 1999 was discussed.

MOTION

It was moved by Abe Abramson, seconded by Frank Lucchino, to approve the following NCLIS meeting schedule for FY 1999:

- NCLIS Meeting, December 3-4, 1998, Seattle, WA
(Meeting would be held in conjunction with the Coalition for Networked Information conference (December 7-8.) Commissioner Furlong suggested inviting Melinda Gates, Gates Library Foundation.
- NCLIS Planning Meeting (budget submission due September 1999). To be held in conjunction with the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) 9th National Conference; April 8-11, 1999, Detroit, MI

The motion carried unanimously.

Senate Committee on Aging Forum

Commissioner Furlong stated that she and Chairperson Simon have been invited to participate in the Senate Special Committee on Aging Forum, July 16, 1998. Chairperson Simon's statement will cover the positive roles of the Internet and public libraries in the lives of older Americans. Commissioner Furlong will serve as Forum Moderator and will provide an overview on how older Americans use the Internet. Other speakers will discuss the role of the Internet in: (1) helping older Americans maintain contact with friends and family and in developing new relationships; (2) as a vehicle for job training and placement; and (3) as a means for older Americans to obtain information about health care.

Chairperson Simon stated that this forum presents another opportunity for NCLIS to explain its work in this area, and to showcase Commissioner Furlong and her important work with older Americans.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. in order for Chairperson Simon, Commissioner Furlong, and Bob Willard to conduct a conference call with the Senate staff, Special Committee on Aging.

Friday, June 26, 1998

The Library of Congress, James Madison Building

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed the NCLIS Members and staff, guests and observers.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

- Peer Review Panels

Commissioner Diane Frankel, IMLS Director, invited Members to observe the activities of the peer review panels reviewing the National Leadership Grant proposals during the week of July 27. Over 250 applications have been received for the first-ever IMLS National Leadership Grant competition. The results of the competition for nearly \$6,500,000 to libraries and library/museum collaboratives will be announced in mid-September. Awards range from \$15,000 to \$500,000. Awards over \$250,000 must be matched at least one-to-one with non-Federal support, which may include in-kind cost sharing.

- Staffing

Key staff are in now in place, however, Commissioner Frankel is working with the Office of Personnel Management in the recruitment of several other positions.

- Work with COSLA

Commissioner Frankel described the close collaboration between IMLS, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), the LSTA Evaluation Committee (formed by COSLA), and Congressman John Porter on the critical issue of output. The Committee surveyed existing types of information collection activities and performance indicators used to evaluate the impact of LSTA. In addition, the Committee is developing definitions for performance indicators and exemplary programs examples, and by August 1998 plans to have an evaluation process in place. By spring 1999 IMLS will have a report on the evaluation data.

- Native American Library Service

In open dialogue with leaders in Native American Library Service, IMLS established a new program with increased technical assistance. For those tribes not receiving the Basic Grant Applications, the deadline for filing has been extended until July 31. Commissioner Frankel noted that the program marks new opportunities for improved library services for an important part of the nation's community of library users.

- Appropriations Request

The House Subcommittee approved the President's appropriations request for \$146,340,000 for the Office of Library Service.

- 1997 Programs, IMLS

Mamie Bitner, IMLS, distributed IMLS packets containing recent news releases and the IMLS brochure, 1999 Programs. The brochure contains information about IMLS' programs and process, the Office of Library Services, the Office of Museum Services, the National Museum Services Board, and NCLIS.

- Communications Plan

IMLS retained Ruder Finn to develop a strategic communications plan for implementation by the agency staff. As a first step, Ruder Finn conducted a survey to determine how key people in the museum and library fields perceive current IMLS communications practices. In addition, communications opportunities and challenges facing the agency will be identified.

Griff Garwood, Senior Account Executive, Ruder Finn, spoke on the IMLS Communications Audit, which surveyed four library professionals, museum professionals, and one corporate professional. The library respondents were: Jeanne Simon, NCLIS; Carol Henderson, ALA; Sara Parker, COSLA; and Ann Symons, ALA.

The confidential, one-half hour telephone interview consisted of 25 questions regarding perceptions, issues and concerns about the agency communications processes and practices. The major general observations/responses were:

- (1) There is a general respect for IMLS.
- (2) Solid positive support for IMLS was revealed.
- (3) Respondents rely on personal communications with IMLS staff for information about the agency.
- (4) Communications from IMLS can and should be improved, but the respondents do not have an urgent need for large amounts of detailed information.
- (5) Respondents said the mission of IMLS is to support museums and libraries, serve those communities, and administer grants.
- (6) Respondents identified the following as IMLS primary audiences: Congress, the museum community, and the library community.
- (7) There is value in museums and libraries working together, but the benefits of these potential partnership arrangements could not be articulated.

(8) Respondents from the library field expect IMLS to communicate factual information about the agency; respondents from the museum field expect IMLS to communicate more lofty messages about the importance of museums and institutions to enhancing society and enriching lives.

(9) IMLS has a low public profile.

(10) Many respondents said the greatest challenges facing museums and libraries relate to the implementation of new technology and a changing society in which people get information in new ways.

Following a brief question and answer session, Chairperson Simon suggested that in one year Ruder Finn survey some of the grantees regarding the communications plan. Commissioner Frankel stated, "We hope to find out how to work with the grantees because it is at that level where they can be both advocates and spokespersons for the program." IMLS will keep NCLIS up-to date on the responses.

- NCLIS/National Museum Services Board Meeting

Commissioner Frankel outlined the plans for the NCLIS/National Museum Services Board working dinner Sunday evening, September 27, and one-day meeting, Monday, September 28, 1998. The goal for the meeting is threefold: (1) to engage discussion about the grant process; (2) to discuss changes to be made in the guidelines; and (3) to discuss broad issues impacting museums and libraries.

With the Commission's approval, a reception will be held Sunday evening for the museum/library service communities and related organizations/providers for all to become better acquainted.

Commissioner Frankel indicated that IMLS is considering establishing a library award program similar to the National Award for Museum Services which is now in its fifth year. The award is presented to museums "that extend themselves in ways that most museums do not." Mr. Willard reported that he attended the 1997 museum awards ceremony which was very impressive, prestigious, and significant. "And, libraries should be there, too," he stated.

Commissioner Frankel suggested that Chairperson Simon establish a subcommittee to work with IMLS on criteria for a National Award for Library Services. The special committee could then report back in September with recommendations and methodologies for the award. As requested, the Chairperson established a Subcommittee composed of the following Commissioners: Bobby Roberts, Chair; Rebecca Bingham; Joan Challinor; and Martha Gould.

IMLS offered to send material on the Museum Awards to the members of the subcommittee.

Forum for Museums Partnering with Community

Commissioner Abramson reported on “Building a Sense of Place,” the Forum for Museums Partnering with Community, June 18-19, St. Louis, Missouri. The two-day meeting was sponsored by IMLS and the Missouri Historical Society and provided an opportunity for museum leaders committed to community involvement to:

- Develop a shared understanding of current community issues;
- Explore how museums can become participants in addressing these issues;
- Identify the skills and resources museum professionals need to become key agents of change within their communities; and
- Discuss the internal organizational changes museums must make as they commit to becoming community partners.

Commissioner Abramson reported, “The forum was very interesting, and it impressed me because it was held in the spirit of the legislation: ‘museums will not succeed as warehouses for art anymore than libraries can succeed as warehouses for books.’ Community participation and collaboration is vital. Beyond the issue of working with less money, this type of collaboration enhances the level of services to the community.” A ‘product’ of the forum will be produced and available in early 1999.

Commissioner Frankel added, “Libraries understand partnering more than museums; museums have much further to go. Libraries can help us learn, and I see these types of forums as a way to achieve balance.

NCLIS/ALA Breakfast Meeting

Mr. Willard stated that a Department of Education attorney advised that the annual NCLIS/ALA breakfast meeting be open to the public, even though the meetings do not deal with policy. Because NCLIS complies with the “Government in the Sunshine Act,” Mr. Willard invited observers to attend the 7:00 a.m. breakfast meeting on Saturday, June 27, at the Washington Hilton, Conservatory Room.

GPO Tour

Commissioner Abramson reported on the private NCLIS tour of the Government Printing Office, June 25, attended by himself, Commissioners Bingham and Roberts, Bob Willard, and Judy Russell. He was impressed to see first-hand the prodigious capabilities for printing and production of government documents. Commissioner Bingham thanked Commissioner Abramson for his intense questioning and stated that the tour was an “educational experience.”

Commissioner Roberts expressed his concern about the volume of material the depository libraries receive which, he stated, they may or may not want or need. He noted that there are “strings” attached to dealing with the costly depository material which takes up space and for which you have no control over what comes in or goes out. Chairperson Simon suggested that this matter could be addressed by the NCLIS/GPO study, particularly in Phase III, which deals with users.

The uncertain status of Title 44 was briefly discussed. Mr. Tabb reported that it is intended for Title 44 to be introduced on this day because it can then become the major theme -- and unveiling -- for the ALA Legislative Assembly the following day.

MOTION

It was moved by Joan Challinor, seconded by Abe Abramson, that NCLIS staff send a letter of personal thanks and appreciation to Michael DiMario, the Public Printer, for the personal GPO tour.

The motion carried.

Children and the Internet

Following up on the discussion on filtering and children and the Internet, Commissioners Challinor and Griffiths researched the Internet to determine what obscene material is available and how easily it can be obtained. The result was that it could not be easier or quicker to obtain hard-core material. Vice Chair Gould stated, “This test reinforces our need to build coalitions so that libraries can be entitles to help get out information protecting children from the dark side of the Internet.”

MOTION

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Winston Tabb, that staff send a letter of appreciation to the American Library Association members attending the June 24 dinner program and discussion on children and the Internet.

The motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Initiatives

Mr. Willard expressed disappointment that invited House and Senate legislative staffers were unable to be present to provide legislative updates because of the heavy demands of the legislative calendar.

Mr. Willard reported that S.2037, Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998, has been passed by the Senate, and H.R.2281 has been introduced to implement the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) copyright treaties. These two bills have been characterized as ones that the library community is against. Competing bills focusing on digital copyright area are S.1146 (introduced by Senator Ashcroft) and H.R.3048 (sponsored by Representative Boucher).

The other main initiatives in the area of database protection is H.R.2265 which passed the House under provisions for "non-controversial" legislation. The House bill has been referred to the Senate for consideration.

In both areas of WIPO implementation and database protection, the library community's major concern is the erosion of public domain and fair use rights. For example, in S.2037 there are restrictions dealing with technological devices that are used to protect copyright which are characterized by the library community, as 'absolute.' The library community is trying to work with Congress to address this issue.

Other concerns in copyright and intellectual property rights bills are:

- S.565, a bill to amend the provisions of title 17, United States Code, with respect to the duration of copyright. The related House bill is H.R. 1621. This legislation seeks to extend the period by which work can be protected by an additional 20 years. Again, this legislative initiative is perceived by the library community as a further erosion of public domain.
- H.R.2265, sponsored by Representative Goodlatte, and related Senate bill, to amend the provisions of titles 17 and 18, U.S.C., to provide greater copyright protection by amending criminal copyright infringement provisions.

Regarding the copyright term extension, Mr. Tabb stated, "The main line of argumentation is that American pre-daters are being disadvantaged in the international market. Aside from all of the issues we care about, this is the main one. It would be very difficult for any Member to vote to disadvantage large communities in the United States, particularly the movie industry; but not just that industry. I have been working with the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries and copyright owners in a series of meetings, mediated by the Copyright Office, to try to obtain at least some possibilities for libraries in the extra 20 year term along the lines that if the work would be extended, but during that period is not in commercial development or being actively used, there would be options for copying during that period for library use that might not otherwise apply. I think that is the best we can hope for. We will be working closely through the Copyright Office to try to get at least this concession."

Commissioner Griffiths reported that the academic sector is also following the copyright bills with particular attention to scholastic infringement rights. Both the academic community and the NCLIS Working Group are concerned with the 'anti-piracy act,' which inhibits the flow of scholarly materials.

Vice Chair Gould expressed her concern regarding distance education and fair use exception to the Copyright Act in the digital environment.

Filtering and the Internet

Vice Chair Gould expressed her concern over the bill "to require the installation of a system for filtering or blocking matter on the Internet on computers in public schools and libraries with Internet access," as amended by Representative Istook. Chairperson Simon stated that this amendment "ties the hands of every librarian. Libraries receiving Federal funds for the acquisition or operation of computers must install filters to protect children from obscenity."

MOTION

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Rebecca Bingham, that the Chairperson send a letter opposing the federal mandate for filtering. Further, the letter should explain that this is a local governance issue that should be addressed at the local level by local school boards and libraries.

The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Gould offered to work with Mr. Willard in drafting the Commission's letter.

Mr. Willard distributed several related items:

- "Gore's Internet Fiasco," The Washington Post, 6/2/98
- "A Computer in Every Classroom," The Washington Post, 6/15/98
- "Letter from Schools and Libraries Corporation CEO Ira Fishman: The Recent E-Rate Changes and Where We Go From Here," ALAWON, 6/26/98.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Simon announced that Commissioners Roberts and Valdez are seeking second terms as NCLIS Members.

Chairperson Simon stated, "This has been a very upbeat meeting. We are on the cutting edge of e-rate legislation, copyright, censorship and libraries. I place much value in Bob Willard as Executive Director."

Recent Chairperson activities include:

- Copyright Conference, Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. The key-note speaker was Pat Schroeder, President, Association of American Publishers.
- Work with the Department of Education and NCLIS Personnel Committee regarding ongoing personnel matters.
- Celebration at the Boston Library with guest speaker Walter Anderson. Bob Willard also attended.
- Testimony before the House Appropriations Committee on April 28. A goal within the next few months will be to increase NCLIS' budget.
- Meetings with Senator Richard Bryan, D-Nevada, Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Illinois, and Senator Dick Durbin, D-Illinois during Library Legislative Day.
- Meeting with Kurt Cylke, Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, accompanied by Bob Willard.
- Freedom Forum Conference to discuss copyright in San Francisco, CA.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Willard reported that Barbara Whiteleather will retire on July 3, 1998. However, she will continue to work half-time as a NCLIS consultant.

Work continues with the White House Personnel Office to fill the Commission vacancies. The President has signed off on four of the vacancies, which are now going through normal FBI background checks.

The June 1998 financial report was distributed. Through May, NCLIS budgeted to expend 66.5% (\$664,832) of the \$1,000,000 appropriated. Actual expenses, including outstanding obligations and prior to the adjustment for salary reimbursements owned to NCLIS by NCES, are 61.3% (\$612,994), so we are within budget at this point in the fiscal year. Commissioner Abramson requested that Mr. Willard's salary be clarified on the financial report to reflect his role as staff instead of Commissioner.

Commissioner Roberts suggested that Commissioners annually contribute to the NCLIS gift account to simplify payments for working lunches and dinner meetings. Mr.

Willard offered to pursue ways to legally pay for NCLIS working meals, perhaps through appropriation language.

With his appointment confirmed, Mr. Willard expects to begin hiring full-time professionals for various positions. A communications plan is being developed and details will be reported in writing.

James H. Billington

Chairperson Simon welcomed James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress and a permanent NCLIS Member. On behalf of the entire Commission, she thanked him for inviting the Members to meet at the Library of Congress.

Commissioner Abramson congratulated Dr. Billington on the "Face of Russia," a three-part series that began on PBS, June 17. Dr. Billington replied, "The Library, everyone, is benefiting from this exhibit. It is a win-win situation."

Dr. Billington apologized for not being able to attend many NCLIS meetings, but stated, "Winston Tabb serves and speaks for me on all important Commission matters."

The Library of Congress will be celebrating the millennium at the same time as its own bicentennial by making it, generally, a 'celebration of libraries', and LC intends to work with NCLIS on this project. Dr. Billington stated, "The realization is spreading about the importance of wiring schools and libraries, and I am encouraged when I hear about helping the least privileged and disadvantaged." The Library's millennium theme will focus on "Open Access to Knowledge."

E-Rate Discounts

To formally endorse the e-rate discount issue, Commissioner Roberts offered the following motion.

MOTION

It was moved by Bobby Roberts, seconded by Abe Abramson, that NCLIS endorses the concept that libraries, public schools, and rural medical centers need e-rate discounts, at least through the transition of the Telecommunications Act.

The motion carried unanimously.

Comments by Guests and Observers

- Peyton Neal, Liaison, Information Industry Association, encouraged expanding the NCLIS official observer community. He also stressed the importance of the intellectual property law reform to NCLIS, the library community, and others, and encouraged NCLIS to seek ways to educate the constituency. More importantly, there are still controversial copyright elements which may not pass Congress, and debates on those issues need to continue. NCLIS should continue work on Title 44 reform, which is of immense importance to the legislative and executive branch.
- Robert Klassen, Office of Library Services, IMLS, said he looks forward to making additional IMLS presentations before the Commission.
- Tom Snyder, Argonne National Laboratory, asked, “Is there an opportunity to use libraries as outlets to convey information to seniors on the new Medicare choices?” He suggested that the library system could provide a trust relationship with seniors for the needed information.” Chairperson Simon offered to discuss this issue with Commissioner Furlong.
- John N. Berry, Jr., *Library Journal*, stated that he was glad to see the Commission’s “much more aggressive and pro-active stance” on some of the toughest issues facing the library and information science field. “I am pleased the Commission has taken on the debates about children’s access to the Internet and copyright with balance and a good deal of thought. It is reassuring, and it gives me a good deal of enthusiasm to see the Commission moving so actively into these very difficult areas.”
- Bridget Lamont, Liaison, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. “Dealing with e-rates has become overwhelming and, at the same time, a welcomed opportunity. The ‘sidebar’ of the e-rates is the galvanizing of the libraries into action. The library community has an opportunity to more carefully delineate and analyze how those requests went in at the local levels.”

On the subject of children and the Internet, “before we all get out there too far, take an informal reality check to find out how local levels are dealing with this issue.”
- Trellis Wright, Library of Congress, suggested the Commission obtain a copy of Congressman Howard Coble’s perspective on fair use and first sale doctrine (remarks on 6/23 or 6/24).

Beth Bingham, Baton Rouge, LA. “Librarians need to be educated and formally trained about educating our users, children and parents with no formal family structure. It is unrealistic to expect librarians to step in and become the parent. . . NCLIS needs to make known its presence.”

- Carmine Trotter, Liaison, White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST), invited NCLIS to attend the WHCLIST Conference, August 6-9, 1998, in Phoenix, Arizona. Commissioners Frankel and Valdez will be attending. He also expressed appreciation to Commissioner Challinor for her “upbeat” participation in WHCLIST.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. for a luncheon with Congressman Major Owens.

Attachments

- I Report, Working Group on Issues of Journal Pricing, Publishing and Copyright
- II “The 1998 National Study, Public Library Outlet Connectivity: Preliminary Results”

DRAFT - 8/11/98

Working Group on Issues of Journal Pricing, Publishing and Copyright

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Report by José-Marie Griffiths, Working Group Chair

A meeting of the Working Group was held on Wednesday, June 24, 1998, in the NCLIS office. Members of the Committee in attendance were: José-Marie Griffiths, Chair; Joan Challinor; Martha Gould; Peyton Neal, Information Industry Association; Carolyn Snyder, Big 12+ Library Consortium and Southern Illinois University; and Duane Webster, Association of Research Libraries. Observers in attendance were: Jeanne Hurley Simon, NCLIS Chairperson; Bobby Roberts; Richard Hill, American Society for Information Science; John Berry, Library Journal; Bob Willard, NCLIS Executive Director; and Judy Russell, NCLIS consultant.

During the NCLIS meeting, April 7 and 8, 1998, in Kansas City, Missouri, the Commission resolved “to accept the challenge of maintaining access to significant research and scholarship at a time where both the volume and price of information have increased nearly threefold in the last decade.”

At the Kansas City meeting, the Commission was asked by the Big 12+ Library Consortium, and in particular James Williams, University of Colorado at Boulder, to “. . . raise the volume on conversations addressing the effective management of intellectual property in order to protect and promote scholarly communication.” So, we have begun by adding and leveraging the voice of this Commission to the discussion of these issues.

During our discussion a number of issues came up, including the very general issue of financial support of libraries. It was acknowledged that academic institutions have been attempting to add resources to the acquisitions budgets of the academic libraries. Unfortunately, they have not been able to keep pace with overall library costs and increasing prices for materials. We had a discussion of the pricing policy of the publishers, particularly concerns over the pricing policies of commercial publishers as opposed to the not-for-profit and professional association publishers. We also had brief discussions on issues of copyright, public-private sector partnerships, electronic publishing, and on the behaviors of readers and authors in the whole scholarly communications environment.

The Group focused on a potential role for NCLIS and developed the following seven issues:

1. Public domain scholarly projects. ARL articulated these issues and indicated an interest in a larger public domain.
2. Encouragement of a robust non-profit publishing presence in the scholarly publishing arena to create more competition.
3. Encouragement of entrepreneurs to design and develop new products and new mechanisms for scholarly products.
4. Support for consideration on how to shape the supply of new knowledge into various channels and maintaining public interest.
5. Insuring policies for federally funded scholarship to be made available to the public on a cost-effective basis.
6. Recommend the creation of new models for scholarly creation, distribution and use.
7. Need to conduct and analyze the entire market dynamics economic flows related to scholarly communication.

The above seven issues were narrowed down to three issues:

1. Public domain scholarly projects. It is part of the Commission's role to protect and consider the notion of expansion in the public domain.
2. Insuring policies for federally funded scholarship to be made available to the public on a cost-effective basis. Relates to NCLIS' role in looking at federally-produced information.
3. Need to conduct and analyze the entire market dynamics economic flows related to scholarly communication.

We want to make sure that we do not duplicate work already done by others. We propose the following action by NCLIS:

1. Identify available and ongoing research related to those issues. We are perhaps more familiar with what is going on within the library community than we are with research going on in the publishing community or in the academic scholarship community.
2. Conduct a series of discussions in meetings with various individual stakeholder groups, the publishers, authors, universities, and library communities.
3. Bring the stakeholder groups together to discuss their relative means, positions, issues, and concerns, creating a forum for those issues and concerns.
4. Produce a report with recommendations that would be widely disseminated.

**The 1998 National Study of Public Library Outlet Connectivity:
Preliminary Results**

John Carlo Bertot <jcbertot@cnsunix.albany.edu>
Associate Professor
School of Information Science and Policy
University at Albany, State University of New York
135 Western Avenue
Albany, New York 12222

Charles R. McClure <cmclure@mailbox.syr.edu>
Distinguished Professor
School of Information Studies
Syracuse University
4-206 Center for Science and Technology
Syracuse, New York 13244

June 24, 1998

INTRODUCTION

The American Library Association's (ALA) Washington Office for Information Technology Policy, in conjunction with the National Commission on Libraries (NCLIS) and Information Science and the Gates Library Foundation, commissioned a study in April 1998 to ascertain the extent of public library Internet connectivity at the outlet level (hereafter referred to as the Outlet Study). This study built upon previous studies conducted by ALA and NCLIS (Bertot, McClure, and Fletcher, 1997; Bertot, McClure, and Zweizig, 1996; McClure, Bertot, and Beachboard, 1995; McClure, Bertot, and Zweizig, 1994).

The purpose of the Outlet Study was to determine the:

- Extent of public library Internet connectivity at the outlet level;
- Extent of public library outlet Internet connectivity by metropolitan status (urban, suburban, and rural) and level of poverty (less than 20%, 20%-40%, and greater than 40%);
- Extent of connected public library outlet public access Internet services;
- Type and amount of public access Internet services (e.g., text-based, graphical);
- Maximum speed of public library outlet Internet connectivity; and
- Availability and implementation of ADA-based Internet services, filtering mechanisms, and acceptable use policies.

The data collected from the national survey intends to inform the current policy debate concerning the Universal Service Fund (USF) as mandated through the *Telecommunication Act of 1996* (P.L. 104-104), which stipulated a school and library Internet connectivity discount structure of 20% to 90% based on poverty and metropolitan status indicators.

The USF is, however, undergoing substantial modification from the initial \$2.25 billion Fund created through the Telecommunication Act of 1996. The data from this study, therefore, are timely and demonstrate the importance of data collection activities that inform current policy issues and debates -- an area in which NCLIS has taken a leadership role.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The below findings are selective and based on preliminary data from the Outlet Study. Overall, the study has achieved a 75.7% response rate as of June 23, 1998. The findings here, however, are based on the responses from 73.8% of the returned surveys. The percentages presented, therefore, will likely change somewhat in the final report.

The next pages present selected key findings from preliminary analysis of the Outlet Study data. There is a brief discussion of the data following the figures.

Figure 1. Public Library Outlets by Metropolitan Status and Poverty.

Metropolitan Status	Poverty			Overall
	Less than 20%	20%-40%	More than 40%	
Urban	10.1% (n=1,587)	5.6% (n=885)	1.4% (n=219)	17.1% (n=2,691)
Suburban	29.3% (n=4,602)	2.0% (n=313)	0.1% (n=18)	31.4% (n=4,933)
Rural	41.8% (n=6,568)	9.2% (n=1,446)	0.5% (n=80)	51.5% (n=8,094)
Overall	81.2% (n=12,757)	16.8% (n=2,644)	2.0% (n=317)	100.0%* (n=15,718)

* According to NCES (1997), there are 15,945 public library outlets. Not all outlets in the public library universe file, however, have metropolitan status codes. As such, the study team was not able to identify and geocode 227 outlets.

Figure 2. Public Library Outlets Connected to the Internet by Metropolitan Status and Poverty.

Metropolitan Status	Poverty			Overall
	Less than 20%	20%-40%	More than 40%	
Urban	91.1% (n=1,445)	92.5% (n=819)	90.9% (n=199)	91.5% +/- 2.8% (n=2,462)
Suburban	88.5% (n=4,072)	78.3% (n=245)	83.3% (n=15)	87.8% +/- 3.3% (n=4,332)
Rural	79.8% (n=5,239)	74.3% (n=1,074)	73.8% (n=59)	78.7% +/- 4.1% (n=6,372)
Overall	84.3% +/- 3.6% (n=10,755)	80.9% +/- 3.9% (n=2,138)	86.1% +/- 3.5% (n=273)	83.8% +/- 3.7% (n=13,166)

Figure 3. Connected Public Library Branches that Provide Public Access to the Internet by Metropolitan Status and Poverty.

Metropolitan Status	Poverty			Overall
	Less than 20%	20%-40%	More than 40%	
Urban	93.1% (n=1,346)	88.4% (n=716)	95.5% (n=190)	91.8% +/- 2.8% (n=2,206)
Suburban	87.0% (n=3,541)	82.8% (n=202)	87.5% (n=14)	86.7% +/- 3.4% (n=3,755)
Rural	84.5% (n=4,426)	90.7% (n=964)	94.5% (n=52)	85.6% +/- 3.5% (n=5,441)
Overall	86.6% +/- 3.4% (n=9,266)	88.9% +/- 3.1% (n=1,880)	94.8% +/- 2.2% (n=256)	87.1% +/- 3.4% (n=11,402)

Figure 4. Public Library Outlet Maximum Speed of Public Access Internet Services by Metropolitan Status and Poverty.

Maximum Speed	Metropolitan Status			Poverty Level			Overall
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Less than 20%	20%-40%	More than 40%	
14.4kbps	3.7% (n=80)	3.7% (n=135)	4.9% (n=254)	5.0% (n=443)	0.9% (n=16)	4.4% (n=11)	4.3% +/- 1.9% (n=470)
28.8kbps	5.0% (n=108)	13.7% (n=496)	22.1% (n=1,154)	17.0% (n=1,523)	12.0% (n=217)	7.1% (n=18)	16.0% +/- 3.4% (n=1,758)
33.6kbps	2.4% (n=52)	8.1% (n=292)	20.9% (n=1,092)	13.9% (n=1,242)	10.3% (n=186)	3.2% (n=8)	13.1% +/- 2.7% (n=1,436)
56kbps	32.4% (n=698)	34.6% (n=1,249)	29.9% (n=1,564)	31.4% (n=2,806)	33.6% (n=606)	38.9% (n=98)	31.9% +/- 4.7% (n=3,510)
64kbps	4.9% (n=105)	4.2% (n=152)	4.4% (n=230)	4.2% (n=378)	5.9% (n=106)	1.6% (n=4)	4.4% +/- 2.4% (n=488)
128kbps	11.3% (n=244)	6.2% (n=223)	2.9% (n=154)	5.0% (n=444)	9.0% (n=163)	5.2% (n=13)	5.6% +/- 2.4% (n=620)
T1 (1.45mbps)	37.0% (n=797)	26.2% (n=947)	12.9% (n=675)	20.6% (n=1,839)	27.0% (n=487)	36.9% (n=93)	22.0% +/- 4.1% (n=2,419)
Cable (10mbps)	1.5% (n=33)	2.6% (n=94)	1.9% (n=99)	2.4% (n=212)	0.7% (n=12)	0.4% (n=1)	2.1% +/- 1.5% (n=226)
Other	1.8% (n=38)	0.6% (n=21)	0.2% (n=11)	0.6% (n=54)	0.6% (n=10)	2.4% (n=6)	0.6% +/- .07% (n=70)
Overall	100.0% (n=2,155)	100.0% (n=3,609)	100.0% (n=5,233)	100.0% (n=8,941)	100.0% (n=1,803)	100.0% (n=252)	100.0% (n=10,998)

Figure 5. Connected Public Library Branches Public Access Internet Services Speed at 56kbps by Metropolitan Status and Poverty.

Metropolitan Status	Poverty			Overall
	Less than 20%	20%-40%	More than 40%	
Urban	36.4% (n=466)	24.6% (n=169)	33.5% (n=63)	32.4% +/- 4.6% (n=698)
Suburban	34.9% (n=1,118)	27.3% (n=54)	61.5% (n=8)	34.6% +/- 4.7% (n=1,249)
Rural	27.1% (n=1,153)	41.7% (n=383)	53.8% (n=28)	29.9% +/- 4.5% (n=1,564)
Overall	31.4% +/- 4.6% (n=2,806)	33.6% +/- 4.7% (n=606)	38.9% +/- 4.8% (n=98)	31.9% +/- 4.6% (n=3,511)

Figure 6. Connected Public Library Branches Public Access Internet Services Speed at 1.45mbps (T1) by Metropolitan Status and Poverty.

Metropolitan Status	Poverty			Overall
	Less than 20%	20%-40%	More than 40%	
Urban	31.4% (n=402)	45.3% (n=311)	45.2% (n=85)	37.0% +/- 4.8% (n=797)
Suburban	26.4% (n=899)	22.7% (n=45)	23.1% (n=3)	26.2% +/- 4.4% (n=947)
Rural	12.6% (n=538)	14.3% (n=131)	9.6% (n=5)	12.9% +/- 3.3% (n=675)
Overall	20.6% +/- 4.0% (n=1,839)	27.0% +/- 4.4% (n=487)	36.9% +/- 4.8% (n=94)	22.0% +/- 4.1% (n=2,419)

DISCUSSION

The data show that:

- Overall, 83.8% of public library outlets have some type of Internet connection (Figure 2). Connectivity, however, varies by metropolitan status, with fewer rural public library outlets having an Internet connection (78.7%) than suburban public libraries (87.8%), and urban public libraries (91.5%).
- Nearly all (87.1%) connected public library outlets provide public access to the Internet (Figure 3). These public access services occur across all types of library outlets.
- Most public library outlet public access services have a maximum speed of 56kbps (31.9%), followed by T1 (1.45mbps) service (22.0%), and 28.8kbps (16.0%) (Figure 4).
 - Overall, public library outlets using 56kbps service for public access are equal across all library outlets (Figure 5).
 - T1 public access service is substantially less for rural public library outlets (12.9%) than for urban (37.0%) and suburban (26.2%) library outlets (Figure 6).

Together, the data demonstrate that public library Internet connectivity is not equal across public library outlets. The differences are less due to poverty issues as opposed to geographic location. In general, rural library outlets have less connectivity and less bandwidth.

Additional data analysis will be forthcoming in the final report. The authors anticipate the release of the final report by the end of July 1998.

REFERENCES

Bertot, J. C., McClure, C. R., and Fletcher, P. D. (1997). *The 1997 national survey of U.S. public libraries and the Internet: Final report*. Washington, D.C.: American Library Association Office for Information Technology Policy.

Bertot, J. C., McClure, C. R., and Zweizig, D. L. (1996). *The 1996 national survey of public libraries and the Internet: Progress and issues*. Washington, D.C.: National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

McClure, C. R., Bertot, J. C., and Beachboard, J.C. (1995). *Internet costs and cost models for public libraries*. Washington, D.C.: National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

McClure, C. R., Bertot, J. C., and Zweizig, D. L. (1994). *Public libraries and the Internet: Study results, policy issues, and recommendations*. Washington, D.C.: National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.