

**Meeting of the  
U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science  
September 15, 2000  
The Madison Hotel, Washington, DC**

*[These minutes report actions and summarize discussions occurring at the Commission meeting. A verbatim transcript of the meeting is maintained at the Commission office.]*

NCLIS Members: Martha Gould, Chairperson; C. E. "Abe" Abramson; Jack Hightower; Bobby Roberts, Beverly Sheppard; Winston Tabb

Special Guest: Marilyn Gell Mason

NCLIS Staff and Consultants: Robert Willard, Executive Director; Judith Russell, Deputy Director; Elizabeth Bingham; Denise Davis; F. Woody Horton; Rosalie Vlach; Barbara Whiteleather

NCLIS Liaisons and Guests: Jerry Florence, Member, National Museum Services Board; Peyton Neal, representing Software and Information Industry Association; Emily Sheketoff, representing American Library Association Washington Office; Ann Prentice, representing the Association for Library and Information Science Education and the American Society for Information Science and Technology; J. Maurice Travillion, representing the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Gould briefly reported on conferences and meetings attended since September 15, 2000, including the American Library Association Annual Conference and IFLA 2000 in Jerusalem. Chairperson Gould expressed her strong belief that NCLIS have a very visible position during IFLA 2001 in Boston.

Executive Director's Report

- *Personnel* – At present, the Commission is at full staff. In addition, a high school student intern is on board to assist staff in a number of technology areas.
- *Appropriations* – The appropriations bill is now in conference committee. The House version has NCLIS at \$1.3 million (the same as FY 2000). The Senate version has NCLIS at \$1.5 million. The draft conference report comes in at the Senate amount of \$1.5 million (this would be about a 15 percent increase on top of the 30 percent increase from last year). In just two years, NCLIS has gone from just under \$1 million to \$1.5 million.

- *Publications* – NCLIS is reprinting (with minor editorial amendments and backup material, e.g., legislative proposals) the *Public Sector/Private Sector Interaction in Providing Information Services*, prepared by the NCLIS Public Sector/Private Sector Task Force in February 1982.
- *White House Conference* – Although there is really nothing new to report, the White House has assigned the idea of a White House Conference to a staffer. However, to date, contact with that person has not been productive. Mr. Willard expressed his belief that it would be a mistake for the current incumbent to leave the White House without saying something about libraries.
- *NCLIS Archives* – NCLIS files and records, including audiovisuals, are being archived with the help of a professional archival consultant, Kathleen Lannon. Although it may take a couple of years, record schedules will be developed for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), resulting in a documentary record of the history of the Commission.
- *Conferences and meetings* attended since the last meeting included: (1) a two-day brainstorming session at the National Academy of Sciences on the digital divide and digital democracy; (1) observing the IMLS review panels; (3) the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, including the traditional breakfast meeting with the ALA Board, and a meeting of the task force on the Library Services and Technology Act; IFLA 2000; and (4) a guest appearance on the Dr. Laura Show to discuss library filtering. A taped version of the show is available for viewing in the NCLIS office.

Mr. Willard expressed greetings from former Congressman John Brademas, the person who introduced the Commission's enabling legislation (Public Law 91-345) in 1970. Mr. Willard had a "serendipitous" meeting with Mr. Brademas as he was leaving the hotel in which the Commission was meeting.

#### NCLIS Conference/Meeting Calendar

The NCLIS conference/meeting calendar was included in the meeting notebook. Commissioners were requested to review the calendar and notify the Chairperson of which conferences and/or meetings they wish to attend as NCLIS representatives. In addition, Commissioners were requested to propose dates for future NCLIS meetings through July 2001.

Chairperson Gould expressed strong desire to hold hearings within the next 12 to 14 months on: (1) the reauthorization of the Library Services and Museum Act, and (2) information literacy and the status of school libraries. Ms. Russell suggested, and Chairperson Gould agreed, to consider the possibility of holding the reauthorization hearing during Library Legislative Day, April 30-May 1, 2001.

Ms. Russell proposed scheduling an NCLIS meeting in mid-November to discuss the report of the Assessment of Federal Government Information and the Future of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), which is due to Congress on December 15, 2000.

Ms. Sheppard alerted the Commissioners to the second annual LSTA management conference, November 15-17, which could be coordinated with the proposed November NCLIS meeting.

#### NCLIS Draft Minutes

Chairperson Gould reported that NCLIS meeting minutes are now being prepared in brief format, recording only major decisions, discussions and events. The complete transcript is available from the NCLIS office for review upon request.

The draft minutes for the April 10-12, 2000; February 17-18, 2000; and November 3-5, 1999 were included in the NCLIS meeting notebook. Because a quorum was not present, the minutes will be approved by mail ballot.

#### NCLIS Administrative Matters

- Ms. Russell reviewed the NCLIS FY 2000 Financial Report (through September 1, 2000).
- NCLIS office space will be expanded to allow for a formal reception area and a conference room large enough to hold NCLIS meetings on site.
- The NCLIS logo design has been upgraded and modernized. This new design will be included on NCLIS stationery, envelopes, note cards and mailing labels, which have also been redesigned to create a new look for the Commission. Coffee mugs and glassware are available for presentation to visitors, especially from foreign countries. In addition, NCLIS business cards have been redesigned.

#### NCLIS/NMSB Joint Meeting

Chairperson Gould expressed disappointment that the agenda did not allow time for discussions into the leadership grants and the arena of education during the meeting with the National Museum Services Board earlier in the day.

Ms. Sheppard suggested that future agendas would allow for content discussion in the morning session, a break for lunch, and then convening for one more hour to reflect on guidance points for the program, e.g., allocation of funds and percentages.

#### NCLIS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Commissioner Hightower, Chair of the NCLIS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee, suggested the Carter Center as a venue for a symposium on the digital divide. President Carter was deeply involved in the first White House Conference in which he expressed a very strong belief in the contribution libraries can make to individual lives. Mr. Willard will continue to follow up with a person at the Center suggested to Commissioner Hightower by former President Carter.

Ms. Russell suggested the possibility of holding an event on the Hill in recognition of those members of Congress who sponsored the original legislation still in office—Ted Kennedy; Ted Stevens, and Patsy Mink. Mr. Willard noted that he has a list of the other sponsors living in the Washington area. Mr. Willard suggested the event could take the form of a lecture followed by a reception in the theatre at the Library of Congress. He

further suggested that John Brademas be a key player and that such an event could not be held without his personal involvement.

At Mr. Willard's request, Rosalie Vlach will work closely with Commissioner Hightower to plan the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

#### NCLIS Committees

The members reviewed the NCLIS committee list (revised) included in the meeting notebook. Commissioner Hightower requested the Chairperson to consider adding Vice Chair Challinor to the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee.

#### LSTA Reauthorization

The current Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) runs through September 30, 2002. To date, the COSLA-ALA task force has held two meetings to begin determining the library/museum communities' input to the legislative process. Chairperson Gould and/or Mr. Willard have attended, and plan to attend, these meetings as observers.

Mr. Willard called for the Commission's involvement in the LSTA reauthorization, citing the Commission responsibility for providing policy advice to the President and Congress and for providing advice to the IMLS director.

#### Sister Libraries, A White House Millennium Council Project

Rosalie Vlach reported that the first phase of the project – the selection, designation and matching of libraries and presentation of plaques – is almost complete. To date, 146 libraries have been designated; fewer than five U.S. libraries are still to be matched. A new brochure has been developed listing participating libraries and foreign countries and cities that are part of the program.

The fourth (and final) round of applicants closes on October 16; the program, however, continues through December 31, 2001, the period established by the White House. Staff will prepare a final report, a 'how-to-type' manual, based on their practical experience.

Several options are being explored to turn the project over to, perhaps, (a) the American Library Association's international relations roundtable, or (b) UNESCO.

Beth Bingham, NCLIS Consultant, briefly reported on the success of the Sister Libraries booth at IFLA 2000 in Jerusalem.

The Commission expressed their appreciation to Ann Molod for the financial support and physical assistance she has continually provided for the project.

#### Library Statistics Program

- *Public Libraries and the Internet 2000* – The 2000 study updated and re-geocoded all public library outlets using the 1997 public library dataset produced by the National Center for Education Statistics through the Federal-State Cooperative System. The

survey found that nearly all public library outlets – 95.7% - have Internet connections. This is an increase from 83.6% in 1998.

Denise Davis, Director, Statistics and Surveys, noted that this finding was expected. Chairperson Gould and Commissioners Abramson, Griffiths and Roberts volunteered to participate in discussions regarding further analysis of the Internet 2000 study data, publication(s), dissemination, and future research in this area. Chairperson Gould reiterated her concern about access to information on the Internet and the security of the information that has been digitized.

- *Alliance to Create Community Access Points Database* – Ms. Davis requested the Commission’s advice on what role, if any, NCLIS staff (Davis; Vlach) should have in the ALA project: *Alliance to Create Community Access Points Database*. The project’s focus is to identify potential funders and technology-savvy organizations to develop an integrated database of community technology access points. The Benton Foundation is in close alliance with ALA on this project. Chairperson Gould noted that the concept for this project began several years ago when she and Beverly Lynch, Graduate School of Education and Information, University of California, were stranded at an airport in Minneapolis.

It was decided that the Commission no longer had a proper role in this project and the members’ expressed their appreciation and best wishes to Sandra Shirley and Emily Sheketoff, ALA Washington Office, as they carry the project forward.

#### Assessment of Federal Government Information and the Future of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS)

After Mr. Willard provided background information on the study, Mr. Horton described the panels established to review the four major facets of the study:

- Panel 1, *Reforming the NTIS Business Model for the Information Age*, chaired by Peter Urbach. Assignment: To focus on the business model of NTIS and recommend a new business model for NTIS for the Internet age;
- Panel 2, *Internal Government Needs*, chaired by Kurt Mulholm. Assignment: To examine individual government agency needs for NTIS, GPO, NARA, national library, and other central service bureau types of information services;
- Panel 3, *External User Needs*, chaired by Marian Drake. Assignment: To determine the extent and the reasons why current federal government information products and services, e.g. NTIS, GPO, NARA, the Library of Congress, etc., fail to adequately satisfy external (i.e. non-governmental) user needs; and
- Panel 4, *Public-Private Sector Partnerships*, chaired by Wayne Kelley. Assignment: To look at new partnership arrangements between the public and the private sector in the Internet age.

Each panel has 10 to 20 experts from the information field, e.g., lawyers, economists, academicians, etc. The panels are to develop concrete findings, conclusions and recommendations on how best to strengthen the federal government’s laws, policies,

programs and practices in a “white paper” by October 15. In addition, the panel will be asked to critique NCLIS’ final report to Congress, due December 15, 2000.

### Legislative Update

Mrs. Vlach presented brief legislative updates on:

- S.2804, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 South Michigan Street in South Bend, Indiana, as the ‘John Brademas Post Office’. (Engrossed in Senate);
- The status of NCLIS’ appropriations bill;
- The Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Bill; and
- The Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Management and Information, hearing on “Establishing a Federal CIO: Information Technology Management and Assurance within the Federal Government.”

Ms. Vlach also reported that she and Denise Davis are developing a small statistical pocket guide.

### New Business

Mr. Tabb reported that he has been appointed to, and has attended the first meeting of, the new UNESCO Commission to help create the National Library of Latvia, the only national library in the former Soviet Union that exists in concept but has never actually had a building or a central place to actually be a library.

Chairperson Gould requested the Commissioners to consider endorsing the UNESCO/IFLA School Library Manifesto, a copy of which was included in the NCLIS meeting notebook. The NCLIS International Committee will discuss this proposal.

### Liaison Comments

Emily Sheketoff briefly discussed ALA concern for and efforts in (1) the “digital divide”; (2) the E-rate; (3) government information; (4) intellectual property; and (5) The Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA). UCITA is a proposed state contract law developed to regulate transactions in intangible goods such as computer software, online databases and other information products in digital form. UCITA was originally intended to be a revision to Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), which has been adopted in almost all of the states and territories of the U.S. and which ensures consistent rules governing contract law from state to state.

Peyton Neal, representing the Software and Information Industry Association, urged the Commission to hold face-to-face meetings with the four key task force chairs and other representatives on the four panels studying the Assessment of Federal Government Information and the Future of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS).

Ann Prentice expressed the American Society for Information Science’s keen interest in the Assessment study.

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

