

**Meeting of the
U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
November 15, 2000
Marriott Residence Inn, 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; Joan Challinor, Vice Chair; C. E. “Abe” Abramson; Rebecca Bingham; Nancy Davenport (for the Librarian of Congress); José-Marie Griffiths; Jack Hightower; Paulette Holahan (Member-Designee); Marilyn Mason (Member-Designee); Donald Robinson (Member-Designee)
- NCLIS Staff: Robert Willard, Executive Director; Judith Russell, Deputy Director; Denise Davis; Rosalie Vlach
- NCLIS Consultants: Elizabeth Bingham; F. Woody Horton; Sarah Kadec; and Barbara Whiteleather
- NCLIS Liaisons and Guests: Mary Alice Baish, representing American Association of Law Libraries; Lewis Ballardo, National Archives and Records Administration; Nancy Bolt, representing the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies; Lynn Bradley, American Library Association (ALA), GODORT; Francis Buckley, Government Printing Office; Miriam Drake, Chair, Panel 3, External User Needs, and Dean and Director of Libraries, Georgia Tech; Wally Finch, National Technical Information Service (NTIS); LaGina Gross, ALA; Greg Guthrie (for Louisa Day), NTIS; Susan Harlem, National Labor Relations Board; Wayne Kelley, Chair, Panel 4, Public Sector-Private Sector Partnerships, and retired Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office; Neil MacDonald, Reporter, McGraw Hill Federal Technology Report; Kurt Molholm, Chair, Panel 2, Internal Government Reforms, and Director, Defense Technical Information Center; Peyton Neal, representing Software and Information Industry Association; Steve Needle, NTIS; Colleen O'Hara, *Federal Computer Week*; Peter Urbach, Chair, Panel 1; NCLIS Business Model; Carolyn Watts, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Library Director (retired); Cindi Wolff, representing the American Library Association, GODORT

Opening Remarks

Chairperson Gould introduced and welcomed the NCLIS Member-Designees named by President Clinton: Paulette Holahan, New Orleans, Louisiana; Marilyn Gell Mason, Tallahassee, Florida; and Donald Robinson, Washington, DC.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Gould reported on conferences and meetings attended since September 15, 2000. In particular, she noted the presentation of the National Award for Library Service to the B. B. Comer Memorial Library, Sylacauga, Alabama, and to the Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives, Los Angeles, California.

Administrative Matters

Budget - The Commission is still operating under a Continuing Resolution and may do so until December. The House has approved NCLIS' appropriation at a continuation at the current level (\$1.3 million); however, the Senate has approved \$1.5 million, approximately a 15 percent increase.

The NCLIS Financial Report for FY 2000 was distributed. The gift account has grown, thanks, in large part, to the generosity of Ann Molod, sister of Chairperson Gould.

Personnel – The names of five individuals have been submitted to the Senate for confirmation: Abe Abramson; Philip Bredesen; Paulette Holahan; Marilyn Gell Mason; and Donald Robinson. Mr. Bredesen, the former Mayor of Nashville and a leader in the library world, has informed the Senate that he considers the amount of information required to be intrusive. As a potential political candidate, Mr. Bredesen has withdrawn his nomination.

Meetings/presentations – Recent meetings and presentations attended by both the Chairperson and Executive Director included: (1) a conference at the University of California, Los Angeles, focusing on literacy skills needed for the 21st Century; (2) the meeting of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, October 24, 2000, Springfield, Illinois; and (3) the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce Conference, October 25, Omaha, Nebraska.

NCLIS Annual Report – The 1998-1999 *NCLIS Annual Report* was distributed. Mr. Willard noted that the 1999-2000 report would be completed by January 31, 2001.

Office move – The office move and renovations is expected to begin in late December 2000. The new offices will increase the amount of staff space by slightly more than 25 percent. In addition, the new and larger conference room will allow NCLIS meetings to be held on site, avoiding the cost of outside space.

NCLIS Draft Minutes

The draft minutes of the February 16-18, 2000 and April 10-12, 2000 meetings were not approved because a quorum was not present.

Meeting Calendar

- An NCLIS hearing and meeting will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, in April 2001. The hearing will focus on: (a) the status of school libraries in the United States; and (b) the issue of information literacy. In planning for the hearing, Chairperson Gould directed the staff to work closely with Dean Patricia Senn Breivik, Chairperson, National Forum on Information Literacy; the American Association of School Librarians; the National Education Association; the National Association of School Superintendents; front-line practitioners; as well as various school boards and trustees.
- The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) will be held in Boston, August 16-25, 2001. Chairperson Gould called for strong NCLIS presence, visibility and action during IFLA 2001. Chairperson Gould suggested the Commission hold its meeting in nearby Concord, New Hampshire, rather than meet in Boston. Plans are underway for NCLIS to host colleagues from the Library and Information Commission in Great Britain for the IFLA conference.

NCLIS 30th Anniversary Celebration

At Chairperson Gould's request, Paulette Holahan and Marilyn Mason agreed to serve on the NCLIS 30th Anniversary Celebration Committee; Rosalie Vlach will serve as staff liaison. It was decided that Commissioner Hightower, Committee Chair, would continue plans for a Summit, possibly at the Carter Center in Atlanta, on "The Digital Divide" to celebrate the Commission's 30th anniversary.

Sister Libraries

The fourth and final round of applications was extended to November 10, 2000. The final group of libraries will be designated by the end of November, and letters notifying their Congressional representatives and foreign embassies will be sent in January 2001.

The Commission will host a tea for participants and friends of Sister Libraries on Saturday, January 13, 2001, during the American Library Association Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, DC. Suggestions for invitees should be submitted to Rosalie Vlach. Traditionally, invitees include members and staff of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the American Library Association, Sister Cities International, local librarians, and local current and former Commissioners.

Rosalie Vlach and Beth Bingham are now preparing a final project report and planning for an event to be held at ALA Annual.

Library Statistics Program

Denise Davis presented updates on the following projects and programs:

- The FY 2001 Library Statistics Interagency Agreement between NCLIS and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) was sent to NCES on October 12, 2000. The FY 2001 agreement totals \$325,000, a \$100,000 increase over FY 2000.

- The committee formed at the NCLIS September meeting to discuss and prioritize the NCLIS research agenda priorities has met twice. A final prioritized list is evolving and will be shared with Commissioners by late December 2000. The committee's priority is to move forward with analysis of the policy implications of the *2000 Internet Connectivity in Public Libraries: Summary of Findings and Data Tables*.
- Ms. Davis is a research partner with Drs. John Bertot and Charles McClure in an IMLS National Leadership Grant to develop national data collection models for public library network statistics and performance measures. Work on developing national electronic measures into a field test begins with an NCLIS-sponsored focus group discussion on January 11, 2001, in Washington, DC.
- The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) is updating the library statistics standard, Z39.7. A forum planning committee, co-chaired by Ms. Davis, is in the process of planning a forum in mid-February. The purpose of the invitation-only forum is to discuss key issues associated with whether or not a library statistics standard is needed.

Legislative Update

Rosalie Vlach presented legislative updates on: (1) Final Rule: Exemption to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection Systems for Access Control Technologies issued by the Library of Congress Copyright Office, on October 27, 2000; and (2) Uniform Computer Information Transaction Act (UCITA). Mr. Willard noted that without an increase in funds and staff, the Commission is not in a position to take formal action regarding UCITA.

Public Access to Government Information

The Commission established four advisory panels in response to the request from Senator Joseph Lieberman, Ranking Democrat on the Committee on Government Affairs, and Senator John McCain, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to identify reforms necessary in the federal government's public information dissemination machinery:

- Panel 1, NCLIS Business Model, Peter Urbach, Chair;
- Panel 2, Internal Government Reforms, Kurt Molholm, Chair;
- Panel 3, External User Needs, Miriam Drake, Chair; and
- Panel 3, Public Sector-Private Sector Partnerships, Wayne Kelley, Chair

Each chair presented the findings, conclusions and recommendations of their advisory panel.

At the end of the presentations, Chairperson Gould announced that by January 2001 the Commission would prepare and distribute a report complete with findings and recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.