

**Meeting of the
U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
April 27, 2001
Public Library of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH**

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; José-Marie Griffiths; Jack Hightower; Paulette Holahan; Marilyn Gell Mason; Donald Robinson; Winston Tabb (Library of Congress)

NCLIS Staff: Robert Willard, Executive Director; Judith Russell, Deputy Director; Kim Miller, Special Assistant-Technical; Rosalie Vlach, Director, Legislative Affairs

NCLIS
Consultants: Elizabeth Bingham; F. Woody Horton

NCLIS Liaisons
And Guests: Peyton R. Neal, representing the Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA)

Opening Remarks

After calling the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m., Chairperson Gould welcomed those in attendance.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Gould deferred to the Executive Director's Report so he could provide the Commission an updated look at the appropriations request and current financial report.

Executive Director's Report

Personnel – Executive Director Willard noted there have been no changes in permanent staff. Because of the recess appointments of Mr. Robinson, Ms. Mason and Ms. Holahan, the Commission is up to 13 of its 15 appointed members. However, by the time the recess appointments expire (at the end of the first session of the 107th Congress) three more vacancies (Mr. Abramson, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Burton) will open. In addition, the terms of Ms. Bingham and Dr. Griffiths will be in their one-year extension period and may be filled by the

President at any time. Consequently, President Bush may appoint 10 members between now and January 2002.

The Commission discussed ways to maintain meeting quorums and Commission staffing, and Mr. Willard indicated he and his staff will work closely with Commission members who wished to pursue re-appointment.

Appropriations – After Mr. Willard reviewed the current status and progress of the FY2002 Appropriations Request, the members and staff discussed the requested budget figure and the project requests that could come to NCLIS.

Following the Executive Director's report, the Commission members voted unanimously to move forward with the \$3 million FY2002 Appropriations Request and to seek this amount from Congress.

Motion re Budget Request for FY2002

It has been moved and seconded that the commission agrees that we will continue to go forth with the budget request in the federal fiscal year of 2002 of \$3 million. Is there any additional discussion? All those in favor, opposed.

Follow-up Activity, NCLIS Hearing on Kids and the Internet

Ms. Mason, serving on the "children, pornography and the Internet project" of the National Academy of Sciences, reported that about six hearings have been completed as part of this two-year study, which should present results in early 2002. She noted that, thus far, testimony from children, teachers, parents, technology experts, librarians, and filtering software producers indicate that:

- Filtering software is not very effective in that children can bypass it easily. In addition, filtering software restricts some sites that may be educationally appropriate.
- "Chat rooms" are very commonplace to children, and, children as young as 11 or 12 believe they are capable of evaluating people they meet in chat rooms.
- Since the Internet phenomenon is only one generation old, experience may improve society's attempts to educate its young people, i.e., when today's Internet savvy children become parents, they may be better able to instruct their children on the dangers of the Internet.

NCLIS Hearing on School Librarians

Following discussion about how education statistics are gathered and updated and how *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA) reauthorization funds provide school library materials, the Commission unanimously approved a motion to address the statistical issue. As a short-term solution, the Commission will craft a statement to the Appropriations Committee in

Congress advocating that ESEA reauthorization include designated funds to purchase books for school libraries.

National Award for Library Service

Chairperson Gould thanked the Commission for its work reviewing the awards and noted that Beverly Sheppard, Acting Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is reviewing the Commission's recommendations and will contact the Commission with the award voting tally and award recommendations. The Commission then discussed ways to work with Bob Martin to enhance the promotion of next year's awards and application process. President George Bush has announced he will nominate Mr. Martin as the next director of IMLS.

Administrative Matters

Approval, NCLIS Draft Minutes – The Commission unanimously approved the minutes from NCLIS Commission meetings on November, 15, 2000, September 15, 2000, April 10-11, 2000, February 17, 2000 and November 3-5, 1999.

Mr. Willard noted that the Commission staff will look into activities to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the first NCLIS meeting in September.

NCLIS Financial Report, FY 2001 – Deputy Director Russell reviewed the report with the Commission, noting that spending levels are on track with the fiscal calendar and that National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) funding has been received. The Commission also has been approved to receive \$75,000 from the State Department.

Ms. Russell reminded the Commission that the NCLIS office move and renovation have been completed, covered mostly under last year's budget.

NCLIS Meeting Calendar – In June, the Commission will meet with the American Library Association (ALA) executive board in San Francisco. Mr. Willard noted that the annual joint meeting between the Commission and the National Museum Services Board (NMSB) will be September 13 and 14 in Sturbridge, Mass. The Commission then discussed scheduling an NCLIS meeting in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in Boston August 16-25. Mr. Tabb will review the IFLA preliminary program with Mr. Willard to determine an appropriate time frame for the NCLIS meeting.

Government Information Program

Consultant Woody Horton reviewed the *Comprehensive Assessment of Public Information Dissemination Statistics Program*, which has been published in four volumes. Report recommendations are that:

1. The U.S. Government regards its government information as a strategic, national asset.
2. Every U.S. agency's authorizing legislation should include a standard, simple phrase mandating the agency's obligation to disseminate information to the public.

3. Government expenses for disseminating information should be isolated, identified and abrogated into a single line item known as the information dissemination budget.
4. Congress creates an agency called the Public Information Resources Administration. The Superintendent of Documents program and the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) would be transferred to this agency.

Mr. Horton added that the next step in the program is for Congress to hold hearings on the recommendations. Four Congressional committees have started informal information gathering for such hearings.

Chairman Gould commended Mr. Horton and NCLIS staff members for completing the program's work on an extremely short time table.

International Dialogue: Information Literacy Program

Mr. Horton stated NCLIS staff is pursuing the feasibility of the First International Congress on Information Literacy with the National Forum on Information Literacy (NFIL) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Staff members will meet with UNESCO and NFIL members this fall.

The Commission agreed to table a motion declaring the International Dialogue: Information Literacy an official NCLIS project, waiting for more information on other organizations that may be willing to partner in the project.

Sister Libraries: a White House Millennium Project

Consultant Beth Bingham reported that there are currently 344 libraries participating in this project. Six sites need matches. The final report is planned, and a new brochure on the project is in process. Ms. Bingham is working on a follow-up questionnaire and assessment needed to help the staff determine program success. The final Sister Libraries Tea will be held in conjunction with the ALA Annual Meeting in San Francisco in June.

Mr. Horton added that the Commission has received funds from the State Department to explore with UNESCO whether the basic concepts and ideas underlying the Sister Libraries millennium project might be adapted to the UNESCO Network of Associated Libraries (UNAL) program.

Legislative Report

Director of Legislative and Public Affairs Rosalie Vlach reviewed a compiled table of current legislation of interest to NCLIS. Peyton Neal, NCLIS Liaison from the Software and Information Industry Association, added that he has forwarded the staff draft of Senator Joseph Lieberman's *E Government Act of 2001* to Ms. Vlach.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

