



**Meeting of the
U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
March 11-12, 2006
Ann Arbor, MI**

These minutes report actions and summarize discussion occurring at the Commission meeting. A verbatim transcript of the meeting is maintained at the Commission office.

Present on March 11

Commissioners: Beth Fitzsimmons, Chairman; Bridget Lamont, Vice-Chairman; José Aponte; Sandra Ashworth; Edward Bertorelli; Jan Cellucci; Carol Diehl; Mary “Mitzi” Perdue; Diane Rivers; Herman Totten; Mary Chute, Acting Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Commission staff: Trudi Bellardo Hahn, Executive Director; Neal K. Kaske, Director, Statistics and Surveys.

Also present: Joan Challinor, Former Chairman; José-Marie Griffiths, Former Commissioner and Dean and Professor, University of North Carolina School of Library and Information Science; Robert Willard, Former Commissioner; Mamie Bittner, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs at the Institute of Museum and Library Services Michael York, New Hampshire State Librarian; Guy St. Clair, Consultant.

Opening Remarks: After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fitzsimmons welcomed the Commissioners and audience members, noting that the previous day and the morning had been spent at the symposium, *Scholarship and Libraries in Transition: A Dialogue in Mass Digitization* at the University of Michigan. The symposium had been co-sponsored by the University of Michigan and the Commission.

Agenda: The agenda was approved as published.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the May 23-24, 2005 Commission meeting were approved as distributed.

National Research Study on the Future of Librarians in the Workforce: Dr. Griffiths reported on the study, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The study is to look at the nature of current and anticipated vacancies in the library marketplace and to work with labor economists and project forward 15 years, to seek to identify what

vacancies are likely to be coming up during this period of time. The study also looks at recruitment, education, and retention workforce issues, including an assessment of the capacity of the current graduate schools of library and information science.

Libraries and Homeland Security: The Commission heard a report from Mr. York, describing a pilot program on the role of libraries in emergency situations. With the participation of Commissioner Stephen M. Kennedy, the program is expected to serve as a model or template for other states to use as resources during crises, both natural and man-made. Mr. York reported that he and Commissioner Kennedy had met with Governor John Lynch of New Hampshire and received the governor's encouragement to proceed with planning the program with the state's Department of Public Safety. The next step is to meet with the New Hampshire Advisory Council for Homeland Security about the role libraries can play in responding to both natural and man-made disasters.

World Summit on the Information Society: Dr. Challinor presented her report, which described the meeting which had been held in Tunis in November, 2005. Dr. Challinor spoke specifically to two points, the role of the Internet Governance Forum and the risks of changing the present governance structure for the Internet, and the limited discussions on the role of women at the WSIS meeting. Dr. Challinor, who represented the Commission at the summit, also included in her verbal report a tribute to Mary Chute, Acting Director, and Nancy Weiss, Legal Counsel, Institute for Museum and Library Services, for their efforts with respect to the success of WSIS.

Resolution for Joan R. Challinor, Ph.D.: Following Dr. Challinor's presentation, the Chairman asked her to remain at the meeting to hear the following resolution:

Resolution in Recognition of Joan R. Challinor

Whereas Joan R. Challinor, Ph.D., has served faithfully and dutifully as a member of the Commission since she was appointed in 1995 to a first term and in 2000 to a second term by President William Jefferson Clinton, and as Chairman of the Commission from July 20th, 2003 until January 28th, 2004, appointed by President George W. Bush; and

Whereas Joan R. Challinor brought to the Commission valuable experience and knowledge from her service as Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Radcliffe College, as a member of the Madison Council at the Library of Congress, and as a Director of the Knight-Ridder, Inc.; and

Whereas Joan R. Challinor's term of office as Commissioner ended on December 13, 2005; and

Whereas during her tenure, Commissioner Challinor was called upon to provide sound advice and wise counsel to the Members and staff on behalf

of the Commission's programs, plans, projects, and pertinent legislation, particularly during the transition period to the "new" Commission; and

Whereas Commissioner Challinor served as an active and diligent member on many of the Commission's committees and task forces, especially the International Initiative, and made contributions to the Commission, including attending the International Federation on Libraries and Information -- Library Associations and Institution meetings every year, and contributing to the Sister Libraries Millennium Project, the ICSECA grants, the International Leadership Conference on Information Literacy in Prague, and the World Summits on the Information Society in Geneva and Tunis: Now, be it therefore

Resolved, that Joan R. Challinor is hereby recognized for her dedicated service, her diplomacy and political acumen, and her extraordinary skills in working with the staff;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Members and staff of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science convey sincere appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Challinor and will long remember her distinguished contributions and leadership with the Commission.

Executive Session: At the order of the Chairman, the Commission meeting was recessed for the day, and the Commission went into Executive Session.

Present on March 12

Commissioners: Beth Fitzsimmons, Chairman; Bridget Lamont, Vice-Chairman; José Aponte; Sandra Ashworth; Edward Bertorelli; Jan Cellucci; Carol Diehl; Mary “Mitzi” Perdue; Diane Rivers; Herman Totten; Mary Chute, Acting Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Commission staff: Trudi Bellardo Hahn, Executive Director; Neal K. Kaske, Director, Statistics and Surveys

Also present: Joan Challinor, Former Chairman; Josie Parker, Director, Ann Arbor District Library; Guy St. Clair, Consultant.

Report from the Executive Session: Chairman Fitzsimmons reported that the Commissioners discussed the proposed consolidation between IMLS and NCLIS and its impact on budget planning for FY 2008. The Commissioners also discussed staffing issues that might be affected by the merger and how those issues might impact the current and the FY 2007 budget. She noted that the Commission will continue to look for appropriate models for the consolidation to ensure that the level of public service provided under the current system is not diminished and that all benefits to the American people will be maximized.

Chairman’s Report: The Commission heard informal reports from Chairman Fitzsimmons and Executive Director Hahn about the status of a variety of programs being considered for the Commission; Dr. Hahn also provided a status report on office operations.

American Corners: Ms. Parker reported to the Commission on her activities with the German-American Institute and its library directors program. At the suggestion of the Commissioners, it was noted that this activity might be used as a model for the State Department for its American Corners Library Program and for any participation by the Commission, if it moves forward with its related initiative.

Libraries and Health Communication Initiative: Commissioner Perdue reported on the work of the task force and NCLIS staff in preparing for the forthcoming 2006 Health Information Awards for Libraries and the Libraries and Health Information Forum at the National Library of Medicine (scheduled for May 3, 2006). She complimented all in their efforts, and the Commission thanked Commissioner Perdue and the task force for their work.

Management Review: Chairman Fitzsimmons reported that the Management Review Team had completed its work. The two key issues had been human resources and budget, and a very comprehensive report reviewed the work and the information that staff had provided and will serve as a useful overview of the office operations requirements.

Library Services for the Aging: Commissioner Ashworth reported on the 2005 White House Conference on Aging, held in December, 2005. The theme of the conference was “The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action.” Coming after 14 months of preparation and public meetings throughout the country, with input from over 100,000 people, the conference was convened and resulted in 73 policy resolutions. Delegates were asked to study the resolutions prior to the conference and select 50 resolutions for study. The library resolution was voted in at # 60, as it received only 249 votes out of 1,200; it was therefore not included as a subject for discussion at the conference.

Commissioner Ashworth commented that the low rating was a clear indication that libraries have a great deal of work to do to make themselves visible to the community at large, noting that for many of the aging population, libraries are not a high priority despite the fact that libraries provide much good benefit for the aging population.

Appraisal/Assessment Initiative Commissioner Aponte introduced Dr. Kaske, who described some of the Commission’s efforts with respect to its Statistics and Surveys Program and the appraisal/assessment initiative (the Commission’s “report card” on America’s libraries, a statutory responsibility defined in the enabling legislation of 1970). Dr. Kaske reported on his work with the assessment initiative.

Following his report, it was moved and seconded that Dr. Kaske continue with the assessment initiative, dedicating one day a week to said project. The motion was *approved*.

Educational Achievement Initiative: The Executive Director, reporting for Commissioner Allison Druin, spoke about the School Librarian of the Year program.

A motion to support the School Librarian of the Year Award Initiative was made and seconded. The motion was *approved*.

Battle of the Books: Chairman Fitzsimmons and Vice-Chairman Lamont described their interest in the Chicago Public Schools Department of Libraries’ Battle of the Books Program, and the Commissioners agreed that the program could be appropriately considered as a Commission activity.

Information Policy Issues: The Commission discussed in general terms a wide variety of issues relating to libraries, information science, knowledge management, and the role of information in society. Subjects discussed included bibliographic standardization; universal access to information, particularly for underserved populations; copyright and orphan works; long-term ownership of digitized information; licensing versus ownership; preservation; and the building of the knowledge society and the institutional role of libraries in the knowledge society. No action items were presented on these subjects.

Resolution for Jack E. Hightower: Chairman Fitzsimmons read into the record the following:

Resolution in Recognition of Jack E. Hightower

Whereas Jack E. Hightower served faithfully and dutifully as a member of the Commission since he was appointed in 1999 by President William Jefferson Clinton, and as Vice Chairman of the Commission from July 20, 2003 until January 28, 2004; and

Whereas Jack E. Hightower brought to this Commission valuable political experience from his service in elected office on the Texas Supreme Court, and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and a member of the Texas Senate; and

Whereas Jack E. Hightower's term of office as a Commissioner ended on December 13, 2005; and

Whereas during his tenure Commissioner Hightower was called upon to provide sound advice, wise counsel, and Congressional experience on behalf of the Commission's programs, plans, projects, and pertinent legislation, particularly during periods when the Commission's budget was reduced and during the transition period to the "new" Commission; and

Whereas Commissioner Hightower always made himself available to support the Commission's initiatives, and made special contributions to the Commission's project on Trust and Terror: Now, be it therefore

Resolved, that Jack E. Hightower is hereby recognized for his dedicated service, his diplomacy and political acumen, and his gentle and winning personality;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Members and staff of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science convey their sincere appreciation and gratitude to Jack E. Hightower.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the March, 2006 meeting of the Commission was adjourned.