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National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (1990-1991): Memorandum 04

Martha Chowning

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506



FACSIMILE MESSAGE LEAD PAGE

DATE 3/2/93 TIME 2:40 pm

PAGES 8 (INCLUDING THIS PAGE)

FROM:

NAME M. Chowling

OFFICE Chairman's office

ADDRESS NEH

CITY, STATE _____

TELEPHONE NO. () _____

FAX NO. (202) 606-8588

TO:

NAME Sandy Cray

OFFICE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____

TELEPHONE NO. () _____

FAX NO. (202) 224-1044

MESSAGE:

Sandy - FYI -

I'm sure this information is redundant to you, but I wanted you to have a copy as I have furnished a copy to Bill Gilcher at Presidential Personnel.

Please call me when you get the fax, as I'd like to discuss something else with you.

Martha

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

March 2, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Martha Chowning

FROM: Tom Phelps, *Tom* Public Programs

SUBJECT: National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

Attached for your information are two short pieces from The Bowker Annual: Library and Book Trade Almanac, 1991-2. While it is not absolutely current, it has some information that might be useful to you. You will see that the first piece (page 107-110 of the Annual, my numbers 1 - 5) is about the National Commission. It is written by Charles E. Reid, the former Chairperson of the Commission. Peter Young is the Executive Director, a staff position, not an appointed one. Reid is no longer a Commissioner. At the time of the attached report, Michael Farrell was elected (by the commissioners) as an alternate to the commission's executive committee. He has since been elected by the commissioners to replace Reid as the Chairperson.

In the second report on the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, beginning on page 5 (my numbers), the priorities are outlined as voted on by delegates sent by the states, district, and territories to the conference. Farrell has problems with all of this "free access stuff," and problems with NREN (priority 2), which is something Vice President Gore very much supports. I have also been told that Farrell has problems with the Federal role for these priorities, or platform statements, as they are sometimes called.

If you want more information, let me know. While I may not know it first hand, I can get it (confidentially) from people in the profession that are closer to the inner workings at NCLIS than I am.

re agreement is
 unity. It is hoped
 for Library and
 the end of 1992.

Federal Agency and Federal Library Reports

National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

1111 18th St. N.W., Suite 310, Washington, DC 20036
 202-254-3100, FAX 202-254-3111

Charles E. Reid
 Chairperson

The three major events in 1991 for the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) were the commission's twentieth anniversary celebration in January, the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) in July, and the passage of technical amendments to the commission's enabling legislation in August. The White House conference dominated all other activities, but the commission pursued and made progress on other programs, too, despite a budget of \$732,000 (\$18,000 less than the previous fiscal year), staffing at only 6.5 full-time-equivalent positions (the level resulting from cutbacks during 1990), and vacant seats on the commission.

Charles Reid continued as commission chairperson, and Peter Young as executive director. In January Elinor Swaim was elected to a one-year term as vice chairperson and Daniel Casey to the executive committee, with Michael Farrell as alternate. Other members were Wanda Forbes, Jerald Newman, Julia Li Wu, and Winston Tabb, representing Librarian of Congress James Billington. Kay Riddle was confirmed as a commissioner in May 1991, and the terms of Carol DiPrete and Raymond Petersen expired in July 1991. In November the Senate confirmed DiPrete and Barbara Taylor for second terms and Norman Kelson, Ben-Chieh Liu, and James Lyons as new commissioners.

Highlights of the Year

Twentieth Anniversary Celebration

On the evening of January 23, 1991, more than 250 current and former commissioners gathered with staff, associates, friends, and other distinguished guests in the Library of Congress for a reception to celebrate NCLIS's twentieth anniversary. The event was cosponsored by the Center for the Book, which also launched its "1991 - The Year of the Lifetime Reader" campaign. First Lady Barbara Bush was present to receive the Twentieth Anniversary Special Recognition Award for her work in support

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literacy. The 1991 Annual Recognition Award went to the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. for its "Right to Read" project.

White House Conference on Library and Information Services

The White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) was organized and conducted under the direction of NCLIS. NCLIS Chairperson Charles Reid and WHCLIS Advisory Committee Chairperson Richard Aberoyd were conference cochairpersons, and Joseph Fitzsimmons was vice chairperson. Commissioners served on committees dealing with delegates' credentials and conference rules and recommendations. At the last of several joint sessions on October 24-25, WHCLIS Advisory Committee members shared their observations and suggestions for actions with NCLIS representatives. [A special report on the conference, held July 9-13, 1991, in Washington, D.C., appears in the Special Reports section earlier in Part I -- *Ed.*]

On November 21, NCLIS presented the WHCLIS summary report to President Bush. He had 90 days to transmit the report to Congress with the administration's recommendations. At year's end, NCLIS had begun identifying priorities and methods for coordinating efforts to implement the 95 recommendations passed at the conference.

*See prior files
p. 6*

Technical Amendments to NCLIS Statute

On August 14, President Bush signed into law (P.L. 102-95) amendments to the commission's enabling legislation (P.L. 91-345). The new law makes clear that NCLIS is to be involved in international cooperative activities and that it can receive monetary and other contributions. It also increases the commission's 20-year-old authorization level from \$750,000 to \$911,000 for FY 1992 and authorizes "such sums as may be necessary" for all subsequent years. (The actual appropriation for FY 1992 is \$81,000.)

Library and Information Services to Native Americans

The Committee on Library and Information Services to Native Americans held its fourth and fifth regional hearings to obtain information on the status of tribal library and information services and to receive recommendations on the kinds of services needed by the tribes living in each region. (The first hearing, for the Southwest, was in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in January 1989. The second, for the Southeast, took place in Winter Park, Florida, in March 1990. The Northeast hearing was held in Hartford, Connecticut, on October 24, 1990.)

Twenty-three tribes participated in the fourth regional hearing in Seattle, Washington, on August 16, 1991, for the Pacific Northwest and the Mountain Plains. Before the hearing, site visits were conducted in California, Montana, and Washington. The fifth hearing, in Anchorage, Alaska, on October 16, 1991, was also preceded by site visits. At both hearings there was testimony in support of improved library facilities, professionally trained library staff, technical assistance, and additional and consistent funding for tribal libraries.

While the two hearings and the site visits were being planned and carried out, a strategic plan was being drafted to provide Native American tribes with adequate library and information services. The commission also helped plan and carry out the February 28-March 3 pre-White House Conference on Native American Library and

Information Services and the special May 23 hearing on Native Americans, called by Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), chairperson of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs. A forum on library and information services to Native Americans on May 22 was cosponsored by NCLIS, the National Indian Policy Center, the American Indian Library Association, and the Society of American Archivists.

Library Statistics

NCLIS continued to work with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) on the cooperative library statistics program begun in 1988. In April 1991, NCES made available the first data from 8,699 public libraries in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, based on national standard data elements and definitions, in both printed and machine-readable form on floppy disks. By the end of September, all data for 1990 had been collected and were being analyzed for completeness and quality before publication in 1992. Development of the Public Library Universe File, with directory information on all public library service units in the United States, progressed much more rapidly in 1991 than expected.

NCLIS, NCES, and the American Library Association's Office for Research and Statistics took a major step forward in 1991 in their cooperative work on academic library statistics. Standard software was used to record the 1990 statistics submitted by the states. This could expedite publication of the data by nine to twelve months. Further improvements in the quality and usefulness of the data from the 1992 and 1994 biennial academic library surveys are planned.

A new questionnaire on school library media centers and specialists, developed by NCES in cooperation with NCLIS and the American Association of School Librarians, was field-tested in March 1991. The major NCES School and Staff Survey for 1990-1991 also contains several key questions on library media centers. Surveys being planned include a state library survey and a survey of federal libraries and information centers, which may be implemented in 1993. A survey of state-based networks is also under consideration.

Support for Executive and Legislative Branches

Working with the Legislative Reference Division of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) -- which coordinates and clears executive agencies' recommendations on proposed, pending, and enrolled legislation -- NCLIS reviewed documents pertaining to the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the High Performance Computing Act (with a section on the National Research and Education Network), the American Technology Preeminence Act, and the National Literacy Act. The commission also conferred with OMB regarding the proposed revision to Circular A-130, "Management of Federal Information Resources."

NCLIS helped to arrange the joint congressional hearing during the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. NCLIS Chairperson Reid sent letters to the states encouraging them to adopt and implement policies similar to the congressional resolution on permanent paper and subsequently reported to Congress on their responses regarding use of permanent paper or plans to do so.

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International Programs

Since FY 1986, NCLIS has cooperated with the Department of State to monitor and coordinate proposals for International Conventions and Scientific Organizations Contributions (ICSOC) grants and to disburse the funds. The six-year total is \$1,055,500, of which \$182,000 was awarded in FY 1991 to support a variety of international library, information, and archival activities. The technical amendments to the commission's enabling legislation that passed in late summer make it clear that NCLIS is to be involved in international cooperative activities (P.L. 102-95, sec. 4).

In August 1991, Commissioner Daniel Casey represented NCLIS at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) conference in Moscow. During meetings with Casey, IFLA's president and secretary expressed interest in adapting the commission's Principles of Public Information for international use.

National Technical Information Service

Technology Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161
703-487-4650

Dorothy Aukofer MacEoin
Fellow, Office of the Director

The National Technical Information Service (NTIS) is a self-supporting federal agency that actively collects and organizes scientific, technical, engineering, and business-related information generated by U.S. and foreign governments and makes it available for public sale. The volume and subject matter of the information have expanded dramatically since the service was established in 1945 as the Publications Board. The core collection now incorporates more than 2 million works covering current events, business and management, foreign and domestic trade, general statistics, environment and energy, health and the social sciences, and hundreds of other areas. The material is not limited to printed reports and documents. NTIS also provides access to electronic bulletin boards and carries computer software and computerized data files on tape, diskette, and optical disc. The NTIS Federal Computer Products Center carries more than 2,300 data files and 1,900 software programs.

In FY 1991, NTIS added 79,000 works to its collection and provided information to more than 500,000 individuals and organizations. Coverage is worldwide; nearly one third of new material comes from foreign sources.

All materials are permanently available. When government agencies, their contractors, and grantees forward reports and other items to NTIS, these items are cataloged, indexed, abstracted, and entered into the NTIS computerized bibliographic database. The database is available to the public through a number of commercial online vendors, which are listed in the free NTIS Products and Services catalog. (For a catalog, call 703-487-4650 and ask for PR-827.)

NTIS is unique among government agencies in that it operates independently of tax-supported congressional appropriations. By law, NTIS is required to recover the

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WHCLIS: The Second White House Conference on Library and Information Services

Rhea Farberman

Director, Public Affairs
White House Conference on Library and Information Services

On July 9-13, 1991, 700 delegates from all 50 states and six U.S. territories, the District of Columbia, and the Native American community convened in Washington, D.C., at the second national White House Conference on Library and Information Services to consider the future role of library and information services in a rapidly changing society. The culmination of many years of grass-roots activity and interest, the conference stemmed directly from a joint congressional resolution (PL 100-382) calling on the president to authorize and request a second White House Conference.

The seeds of the 1991 conference were planted more than a decade ago at the first national conference on library and information services when the Information Age and the personal computer were in their infancy. The 1979 conference produced 64 policy recommendations including one that "a White House or federal Conference on Library and Information Services be held every decade to establish the national information goals and priorities for the next decade, to assure effective transfer of knowledge to citizenry, and to accomplish this goal in light of accelerated changes in information and technology practices."

Designing the Conference

Planning for the second White House Conference began in 1985 with the creation of the White House Conference Preliminary Design Group. The 17-member committee appointed by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science was charged with suggesting the scope and focus of the conference.

In its December 1985 report, the group identified three overarching themes for the conference: "increased productivity, literacy, and sound government decision making" as "critical to the health of our nation." Calling libraries "information agencies in an information society" and "indispensable to the economic well-being of our nation," the group proposed that the second White House Conference consider ways for libraries:

- To make information accessible to all people through networks that link the resources of public, university, school, and special libraries
- To provide business and industry improved access to needed information
- To ensure access to new information technology
- To support formal education for literacy more effectively
- To best extend literacy and other basic information services to people in rural areas and the disadvantaged
- To support lifelong learning for people of all ages, conditions, and abilities
- To serve as effective information centers for all citizens

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- To make use of technology to store, analyze, and transmit information needed by government decision makers and the public

A secondary purpose of the conference would be to increase public support for libraries and appreciation for the importance of the nation's information resources.

Fine-tuning the Platform

Thousands of Americans had the opportunity to participate in the democratic process and express their support for libraries and access to information by taking part in preconference activities.

During the five grueling days of the national conference in Washington, delegates fine-tuned the recommendations that had "funneled up" from the grass-roots level into a coherent platform consisting of 95 policy recommendations. Following are the priority recommendations that are expected to focus legislative initiatives at both the state and federal levels.

Priority

- Adoption of an Omnibus Children and Youth Literacy Initiative
- Creation and funding of the National Research and Education Network (NREN)
- Sufficient funding for libraries to provide the information resources needed for increased U.S. productivity and competitiveness
- Creation of a model library marketing program
- Literacy initiatives including the development of a national training model for library literacy programs
- Adoption of a national information preservation policy
- Development of networks connecting rural, small, urban, and tribal libraries
- Creation of library programs and materials for multicultural, multilingual populations
- Amendments to copyright legislation respective to new and emerging information technologies
- Expansion of the Freedom of Information Act to ensure access to all nonexempt information whether received by the federal government or created at public expense regardless of physical form or characteristics
- Designation of libraries as educational institutions for lifelong learning and inclusion of libraries in all legislation, regulations, and policies designed to support and improve American education

In the words of conference Cochairperson Richard Akeroyd, "The WHCLIS platform recommends programs and policies which would strengthen the role of libraries as educational institutions, ensure access to information for more Americans and teach literacy skills. When they are implemented, these recommendations will allow our national information infrastructure to meet the challenges of a more diverse American society, more complex information technologies, and a more complex world." Specifically, the proposals suggest ways library and information services can advance literacy, productivity, and democracy and make library services for young people and underserved populations a priority.

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Some members of the library community have expressed concern that the sheer number of recommendations (95) may hinder the implementation process. But a review of the recommendations clearly reveals the small number of overarching themes that are of utmost importance to the delegates. "If even half of the resolutions passed by the conference are acted upon, we will see significant change in this country in terms of access to information for all Americans," concludes John Tyson, state librarian of Virginia and a conference delegate.

Information 2000: Library and Information Services for the 21st Century, the summary report of the conference, was presented to President Bush in November 1991. The president transmitted the report with his response to Congress in February 1992. Governors and state library officials also received a copy, and the report is available for public review at federal depository libraries nationwide.

WHCLIS: "A Process, Not an Event"

Bill Asp, director of the Minnesota State Office of Library Development and Services and a member of the White House Conference Advisory Committee, calls WHCLIS "a process, not an event." Indeed, the 95 policy recommendations adopted by delegates to the national conference in July 1991 were the results of years of planning and the input of thousands of Americans.

"The timing of the second White House Conference created high hopes and high expectations for the process," states Akeroyd, state librarian of Connecticut as well as conference cochairperson and chairperson of the conference advisory committee. "During the 1990s, we will face new and exciting opportunities for libraries to play center stage in American education and economic development, but we are also facing declining resources for libraries. Many libraries are being asked to do more with less and are looking to the WHCLIS recommendations for help and direction."

"This conference really is the voice of the American people concerning library and information services," Charles Reid, conference cochairperson, said at the close of the conference, and it remains true today. "This process has identified the priority for national policy into the next decade for library and information services in relationship to access to information, education, and American productivity," Reid concluded. The mandate of Public Law 100-382 has been met; the full impact of the 1991 WHCLIS, however, is yet to be measured.

The Process Continues: The Virginia Library and Information Services Task Force*

The Virginians who participated in the Virginia Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services were determined to see their deliberations and work bear fruit. To ensure that the agenda established at the Governor's Conference would stay before the people of the commonwealth, they passed Resolution 18, calling for the establishment of a group to follow up on the resolutions and undertake grass-roots implementation of the recommendations.

*John C. Tyson, state librarian, and Frank Freimarck, VLIST cochairperson, supplied our information on developments in Virginia.

In response to that resolution, State Librarian John Tyson appointed the Virginia Library and Information Services Task Force (VLIST). The 22-member task force of citizens and librarians, Governor's Conference and White House Conference delegates, observers, and volunteers is chaired by Trist McConnell and Fran Freimarck, Virginia's delegates to the White House Conference. Ida Patton of the state library's Public Library Development Division is staff liaison.

VLIST identified action already taken on Governor's Conference resolutions and issued a report. To create a framework for implementation of the remaining resolutions, VLIST grouped the resolutions and recommendations under four main initiatives: Libraries and Productivity; Library Cooperation; Library Services for Children and Youth; and Creating an Understanding of Libraries.

Libraries and Productivity is aimed at ensuring that librarians assist each individual in the commonwealth in reaching his or her potential for acquiring and applying skills as a productive worker or responsible citizen. Among its priorities is recognition of libraries by the governor and the legislature as an integral part of all plans for state education and telecommunication.

Library Cooperation is aimed at building and maintaining the Virginia Library and Information Network (VLIN) to allow equitable access and participation for all citizens and libraries. The network will be an example of public/private partnership to build a solid and more effective information infrastructure for Virginia's future economic and social health. Of paramount importance is that through state, local, and private funding, all libraries in the commonwealth will be able to convert bibliographic records to machine-readable format. In addition, libraries in the state will have a microcomputer and modem to access the online database and transfer data. This initiative also seeks to promote cooperative collection development among Virginia libraries.

Library Services for Children and Youth is intended to ensure that the Commonwealth of Virginia meet the library-related needs of its children and youth. Among its priorities is the establishment of a statewide, resource sharing network that includes school libraries with media programs as equal partners with public libraries and ensures all youth access to the state's library and information resources. This initiative seeks to develop a partnership between school and public libraries to provide comprehensive library services to children and young adults. It provides grants to colleges and universities for the development and support of both undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare library and information service providers to serve children and young adults.

Creating an Understanding of Libraries will position libraries at the center of the information sector in the twenty-first century. To achieve this initiative, libraries need sound infrastructure and policy. Priorities include a comprehensive, statewide marketing plan and fostering an understanding of libraries and their services. The plan will emphasize the library as a resource to meet the educational, business, and personal needs of the community.

VLIST held its first public meeting January 16, 1992, the afternoon of the Virginia Library Association's Legislative Day. Participants received VLIST's report and proposed initiatives with enthusiasm and interest. The next steps are to identify responsible individuals who are willing to become involved, and specific strategies for implementing the priorities established for each initiative.

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CONFERENCE REPORTS

Conference Postscript: Evaluating the Process

Approximately three weeks after the conclusion of WHCLIS, a conference evaluation form was sent to delegates. Members of the delegations were asked 21 questions on how the conference was conducted, ranging from the recommendations development process and selection of speakers to lodging accommodations.

Four hundred and thirty-two delegates (62 percent of the total voting delegation) responded to the survey. An overwhelming majority, 77 percent, rated the conference as successful. Seventy-four percent called the meal function speakers excellent. The keynote speakers were also rated as excellent by 83 percent of the respondents.

Respondents strongly supported the role of state and preconference activities in their preparation for the national forum. Eighty-six percent categorized their state's preconference activity as "timely, meaningful, and good preparation for the White House Conference."

Regarding the functioning of the conference, most delegates rated the process by which issues produced at the state level were fine-tuned for consideration at the national forum as excellent (26 percent), good (39 percent), or acceptable (30 percent). However, those casting their vote in the good range were also expressing the belief that some changes could improve the process.

The most frequent concern of the respondents was the amount of time available at the conference to complete the recommendations debate process. In the final analysis, the greatest detraction of the conference process seems to have been an overloaded schedule.

The following is a sample of what delegates said about WHCLIS.

Phyllis Heroy (Baton Rouge, LA): "Overall, WHCLIS was handled well. I enjoyed the great variety of speakers and issues presented. The major concern I have is the extreme rush under which the recommendations had to be considered, discussed, and formulated."

Trist McConnell (Williamsburg, VA): "The conference was exhilarating and productive. The extent to which the president and Congress adopt and support our recommendations and resolutions is the ultimate measure of the conference's success."

Calvin Potter (Kohler, WI): "Those in the political arena need a clear and simple message. For the next conference, direct the states to submit a limited number of resolutions to be considered. Overall, it appears that we accomplished our objective; now we can move on to the implementation phase."

Anonymous: "Concerning the recommendations, I was pleased in the end. The process, however, was frustrating because of the lack of time and voting methods. There were so many issues, too many special interests, and not enough thought to the broad perspective."

Vicki Fisco (Frankfort, KY): "I consider WHCLIS one of the most enlightening opportunities it has been my experience to enjoy. It epitomized the democratic process and forged in me a renewed respect for our imperfect but unparalleled form of government. Where else but in the United States of America could such an exercise have taken place?"

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