 Joint Resolution

To authorize and request the President to call and conduct a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held not earlier than September 1, 1989, and not later than September 30, 1991, and for other purposes.

Whereas access to information and ideas is indispensable to the development of human potential, the advancement of civilization, and the continuance of enlightened self-governance;
Whereas the preservation and the dissemination of information and ideas are the primary purpose and function of the library and information services;
Whereas the economic vitality of the United States in a global economy and the productivity of the work force of the Nation rest on access to information in the post-industrial information age;
Whereas the White House Conference on Library and Information Services of 1979 began a process in which a broadly representative group of citizens made recommendations that have improved the library and information services of the Nation, and sparked the Nation’s interest in the crucial role of library and information services at home and abroad;
Whereas library and information service is essential to a learning society;
Whereas social, demographic, and economic shifts of the past decade have intensified the rate of change and require that Americans of all age groups develop and sustain literacy and other lifelong learning habits;
Whereas expanding technological developments offer unprecedented opportunities for application to teaching and learning and to new means to provide access to library and information services;
Whereas the growth and augmentation of the Nation’s libraries and information services are essential if all Americans, without regard to race, ethnic background, or geographic location are to have reasonable access to adequate information and lifelong learning;
Whereas the future of our society depends on developing the learning potential inherent in all children and youth, especially literate, reading, research, and retrieval skills;
Whereas rapidly developing technology offers a potential for enabling libraries and information services to serve the public more fully; and
Whereas emerging satellite communication networks and other technologies offer unparalleled opportunity for access to education opportunities to all parts of the world, and to individuals who are homebound, handicapped, or incarcerated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION I. PRESIDENT TO CALL CONFERENCE IN 1989.
The President is authorized to call and conduct a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held not earlier than September 1, 1989, and not later than September 30, 1991.

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SEC. 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFERENCE.
(a) Purpose.—The purpose of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services shall be to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the library and information services of the Nation and their use by the public, in accordance with the findings set forth in the preamble to this joint resolution.
(b) Composition.—The Conference shall be composed of—
(1) representatives of professional library and information personnel and individuals who support or furnish services to libraries and information services centers, from all age groups and walks of life, and members of the general public;
(2) representatives of local, statewide, regional, and national institutions, agencies, organizations, and associations which provide library and information services to the public;
(3) representatives of educational institutions, agencies, organizations, and associations (including professional and scholarly associations for the advancement of education and research);
(4) individuals with special knowledge of, and special competence in, technology as it may be used for the improvement of library and information services;
(5) individuals with special knowledge of, and special competence in, technology as it may be used for the improvement of library and information services;
(6) representatives of Federal, State, and local governments.
(c) Distribution of Participants.—In carrying out subsection (a),—
(1) one-fourth of the participants shall be selected from the library and information profession;
(2) one-fourth of the participants shall be selected from among individuals who are currently active library and information supporters, including trustees and friends groups,
(3) one-fourth shall be selected from among individuals who are Federal, State, or local government officials, and
(4) one-fourth shall be selected from the general public.
(d) State Participation Optional.—(1) State and territorial delegates and alternates to the national conference may participate in a regional State or territorial conference.
(2) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require any State to participate in a State or territorial conference.
SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.
(a) Direction by Commission.—The Conference shall be planned and conducted under the direction of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.
(b) Commission Functions.—In carrying out this joint resolution, the Commission shall—
(1) when appropriate, request the cooperation and assistance of other Federal departments and agencies in order to carry out its responsibilities;
(2) make technical and financial assistance (by grant, contract, or otherwise) available to the States to enable them to organize and conduct conferences and other meetings in order to prepare for the Conference;
(3) prepare and make available background materials for the use of delegates to the Conference and associated State conferences, and prepare and distribute such reports of the Con-
conference and associated State conferences as may be appropriate; and
(4) conduct fiscal oversight activities with respect to the
preparation for and the convening of the Conference including
contracting for the services of an audit firm.
(c) FEDERAL AGENCY COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.—(1) Each Fed-
eral department and agency, including the national libraries, shall
cooperate with, and provide assistance to the Commission upon its
request under clause (1) of subsection (b). For that purpose, each
Federal department and agency is authorized and encouraged to
provide personnel to the Commission.
(2) The Librarian of Congress, the Director of the National Library
of Medicine, and the Director of the National Agricultural Library
are authorized to detail personnel to the Commission, upon request,
to enable the Commission to carry out its functions under this joint
resolution.
(d) PERSONNEL.—In carrying out the provisions of this joint reso-
lation, the Commission is authorized to engage such personnel as may
be necessary to assist the Commission and the Advisory Committee,
without regard for the provisions of title 5, United States Code,
governing appointments in the competitive service, and without
regard to chapter 51, and subchapter III of chapter 63 of such title
relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.
(e) EXPENSES.—Members of the Conference may, while away from
their homes or regular places of business and attending the Con-
ference, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of
subsistence, as may be allowed under section 2673 of title 5, United
States Code, for persons serving without pay. Such expenses may be
paid by way of advances, reimbursement, or in installments as the
Commission may determine.

SEC. 2. REPORTS.
(a) SUBMISSION TO PRESIDENT; TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—A final
report of the Conference, containing such findings and recommenda-
tions as may be made by the Conference, shall be submitted to the
President not later than 120 days following the close of the Con-
ference. The final report shall be made public within 15 days after
its receipt by the President, transmitted to the Congress together
with a statement of the President containing the recom-
endations of the President with respect to such report.
(b) PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION.—The Commission is au-
thorized to publish and distribute for the Conference the reports
authorized under this joint resolution. Copies of all such reports
shall be provided to the depository libraries.

SEC. 3. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
(a) COMPOSITION.—There is established an advisory committee of
the Conference composed of—
(1) eight individuals designated by the Chairman of the
Commission;
(2) five individuals designated by the Speaker of the House of
Representatives with not more than three being Members of the
House of Representatives;
(3) five individuals designated by the President pro tempore of
the Senate with not more than three being Members of the
Senate;
(4) ten individuals appointed by the President;

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(5) the Secretary of Education; and
(6) the Librarian of Congress.
The President, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker
of the House of Representatives, and the Chairman of the Com-
misson shall, after consultation, assure that members of the Advisory
Committee are broadly representative of all areas of the United
States.
(b) FUNCTION.—The advisory committee shall assist and advise the
Commission in planning and conducting the Conference.
(c) ADMINISTRATION.—(1) The Chairman of the Commission shall
serve as Vice Chairman of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory
Committee shall elect the Chair of the Advisory Committee from
among its members, who are not full-time Federal employees. The
Advisory Committee shall select the Chair of the Conference.
(2) The Chairman of the Advisory Committee is authorized to
establish, prescribe functions for, and appoint members to, such
advisory and technical committees and staff as may be necessary to
assist and advise the Conference in carrying out its functions.
(d) COMPENSATION.—Members of any committee established under
this section who are not regular full-time officers or employees of
the United States shall, while attending to the business of the
Conference, be entitled to receive compensation therefor at a rate
fixed by the President but not exceeding the rate of pay specified at
the time of such service for grade GS-18 in section 5332 of title 5,
United States Code, including travel time. Such members, may,
while away from their homes or regular places of business, be
allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
as may be authorized under section 5303 of title 5, United States Code,
for persons in the Government service employed intermittently.

SEC. 4. GIFTS AND TITLE TO CERTAIN PROPERTY.
(a) GIFTS.—The Commission shall have authority to accept, on
behalf of the Conference, in the name of the United States, grants,
gifts, or bequests of money for immediate disbursement by the
Commission in furtherance of the Conference. Such grants, gifts, or
bequests offered the Commission, shall be paid by the donor or his
representative into the Treasury of the United States, whose re-
ceipts shall enter such grants, gifts, and bequests in a special
account to the credit of the Commission for the purposes of this
joint resolution.
(b) REVERSION OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL.—Materials
and equipment acquired by the White House Conference shall revert
to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
after the close of the White House Conference.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.
For the purpose of this joint resolution—
(a) the term "Commission" means the National Commission
on Libraries and Information Science;
(b) the term "Conference" means White House Conference
on Library and Information Services; and
(c) the term "State" includes the District of Columbia, the
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
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Virgin Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and American Indian Tribes.

SEC. 1. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated without fiscal year limitations $6,000,000 to carry out this joint resolution. Such sums shall remain available for obligation until expended.

APPROVED
AUG - 8 1988

Ronald Reagan