

1985

White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Early Stages (1979-1985): Report 10

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"White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Early Stages (1979-1985): Report 10" (1985). *White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Early Stages (1979-1985)*. Paper 41.
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NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (NCLIS)

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

- * Is the only independent agency that advises both the Executive and Legislative branches on library and information policy. Today information activities comprise more than half of the Gross National Product (GNP), and half of the employed people in this country work in information-related activities.
- * Was established in 1970, during the Nixon Administration, by Public Law 91-345 as a non-partisan, permanent, independent agency. It is not a "Presidential Commission".

COST EFFECTIVENESS

- * Is a cost-effective agency with a total of 10 staff, and a current budget of seven hundred twenty thousand dollars. The 15 member Commission delivers a huge return on the investment made in it by the Congress and the President. This year we will more than double the value of our \$720,000 appropriation with contributions from the private sector.

ARGUMENTS FOR FUNDING (\$750,000.)

- * Works on solving major societal problems in such areas as: information needs of the aging and rural citizens; censorship, adult illiteracy, effect of information on productivity, and access to government information.

Examples are:

- * NCLIS is: examining library and information needs of the aging--the fastest growing population group in the country--and helping to address those needs.
- * Identifying and working toward filling the information needs of rural America--over one-third of the United States population.
- * Helping Federal agencies to solve problems in areas such as adult illiteracy, providing public access to satellite data, and developing international library/information programs.
- * Identifying ways to use information technology and management to improve productivity.
- * Providing a forum for industry leaders and educators to meet to explore ways to enlist private sector help in the education of information professionals.

* Implementing the resolutions from the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services and planning for a 1989 national conference.

* Working with Congress to develop policies and specifications for library/ information legislation and encouraging maximum return on the Federal Government's approximately 5% share of public library budgets.

March 1985