

## NCLIS MINUTES

### **NCLIS Meeting December 3-4, 1998 Seattle, Washington**

Members present	Jeanne Hurley Simon, Chairperson; Martha Gould, Vice Chair; “Abe” Abramson; Walter Anderson (12/3 a.m. only); Rebecca T. Bingham; Joan Challinor; Nancy Davenport (for the Librarian of Congress); José-Marie Griffiths (12/3 only); and Joel Valdez
Members not present	LeVar Burton; Diane Frankel; Frank Lucchino; and Bobby Roberts
Staff and consultants present	Robert S. Willard, Executive Director Judith C. Russell, Deputy Director Barbara L. Whiteleather, Consultant and Recording Secretary
Guests and observers	Richard Akeroyd, Executive Director, Gates Library Initiative); Betty Bengston, Librarian, University of Washington Library, Seattle; Beth Bingham, Baton Rouge, LA; Heidi Bourdon, WA; Carol Erickson, International Library Programs Manager, Gates Library International; Anne Haley, Washington State Library Commission (WSLC); Carol Henderson, NCLIS Liaison, American Library Association (ALA); Deborah Jacobs, City Librarian, Seattle, WA; Linda Lambert, Vice Chair, WSLC; Bridget Lamont, NCLIS Liaison, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies; Paul McCarthy, President and CEO, WLN; Peyton Neal, NCLIS Liaison, Information Industry Association; Gail Pollock, WSLC; Willem Scholten, Executive Director, Gates Center for Technology Access; Patty Stonesifer, Chair, Gates Library Foundation; Nancy Zussy, Washington State Librarian

Thursday, December 3, 1998

Opening Comments

Chairperson Jeanne Hurley Simon called the meeting to order. The Chairperson expressed appreciation to the Friends of the Seattle Public Libraries for hosting the day's meeting at the Washington Athletic Club. Chairperson Simon introduced Deborah Jacobs, City Librarian, Seattle Public Libraries.

Mr. Willard noted that he met Ms. Jacobs in 1997 during a dinner sponsored by Library Journal honoring the "Librarian of the Year" – Commissioner Bobby Roberts. Ms. Jacobs has also been named "Librarian of the Year." After several discussions, Mr. Willard and Ms. Jacobs made tentative arrangements for the Commission to meet in Seattle. Mr. Willard praised Ms. Jacobs' staff for making the final arrangements for the meeting.

Deborah Jacobs

Ms. Jacobs welcomed the Members, staff and guests to Seattle. She reported that Proposition One, Libraries for All, received the necessary votes to pass (an overwhelming 72 percent versus a 60 percent requirement) in the amount of \$186.4 million. These funds will be used to rebuild the central library, build 9 new neighborhood libraries and refurbish all others. In the end, a minimum of 26 buildings will be impacted by the referendum. "People often see Seattle as the *City for Latte*. I believe that people will soon see Seattle as the *City of Libraries*. We welcome you to a city where people love their libraries and their kids. And, they are willing to tax themselves for that love," she said.

On November 23, 1998, Melinda and Bill Gates personally donated \$20 million to the Seattle Public Library, the biggest single gift ever made to a public library. Of the \$20 million, \$15 million is for construction in neighborhood libraries; \$4 million for book collection; and \$1 million for the endowment being created for special services for new immigrants and literacy. Ms. Jacobs stated, "Bill Gates **gets** what libraries are all about, and he knows that people believe in the future of libraries."

Sister Libraries

Chairperson Simon reported that the Commission is sponsoring a "Sister Libraries" millennium project, pairing American libraries with libraries in other parts of the United States or outside the United States to encourage an exchange of professional and cultural information. Noting that this project is a Commission initiative, Commissioner Challinor discussed the possibility of working with both the American Library Association (ALA) and Sister Cities International. Commissioner Challinor asked Carol Henderson to carry the message to ALA that NCLIS wants to work with

them on this important project. She also stated that partnering with Sister Cities International could be an effective means of identifying and recruiting foreign libraries as participants.

Some of the benefits of the Sister Libraries project were discussed and outlined. In particular the project can:

- Offer a unique opportunity for children to communicate with, and learn from, other children both nationally and internationally. Children can be introduced to other languages and cultures.
- Highlight the important role that libraries play in connecting communities, people and places nationally and internationally.
- Create an opportunity for individual libraries to reach out to other libraries to forge mutually beneficial relationships that encourage respect and understanding.

In discussing additional revenue and support to further the program, Vice Chair Gould suggested “linking-up” with non-profit entities, e.g., Delphi and Meridian. Mr. Willard suggested “twinning” with law libraries. Commissioner Furlong reminded the Commissioners of the many Microsoft millionaires in Seattle who may wish to support the project, following the lead of Melinda and Bill Gates. Commissioner Challinor suggested contacting George Soros to discuss the possibility of outside funding.

Several other suggestions were received:

1. Make a presentation at IFLA in August 1999. Strive to have three sister library programs in place to talk about. If possible, have representatives present from the sister libraries. Outline future plans, e.g., within the next 12 (or 24) months, X number of sister libraries are proposed. (Commissioner Furlong);
2. Include school libraries (Vice Chair Gould). Commissioner Bingham added that IFLA has strong relationships with school libraries in foreign countries;
3. Include law libraries and special libraries (Mr. Willard);
4. Choose 5 or 6 people to lead the effort (Commissioner Furlong);
5. Mentoring in terms of building upon the concept of a public library, friends of the library, government support for libraries, particularly in Eastern Europe and the sub-continent of Africa.
6. Hire a consultant to oversee the program.

Ms. Davenport suggested the possibility of obtaining assistance from the Library of Congress’ Center for the Book and/or Gifts and Exchange Program for Surplus Duplicates. Chairperson Simon stated that she plans to discuss the Sister Libraries Project with Dr. Billington when she, Commissioner Challinor, Mr. Willard, and Mathew Evans, CEO of the British Library and Information Commission, meet at the Library of Congress on December 9.

Commissioners Bingham and Valdez volunteered to serve on the NCLIS Millennium Committee. The Committee is now composed of :

Frank Lucchino, Chair  
Rebecca Bingham  
Joan Challinor

Martha Gould  
José-Marie Griffiths  
Joel Valdez

Mr. Willard acknowledged that additional millennium activities have been proposed. However, these suggestions are on hold pending hiring a consultant.

Working Group on Issues of Journal Pricing, Publishing and Copyright

Commissioner Griffiths stated that she is awaiting the tapes from the panel session on *Information Access in the Global Information Economy* before determining what role NCLIS might play in this area. The session was held during the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) annual meeting in Pittsburgh, October 24-29. Commissioner Griffiths also reported that beginning January 1999, a half-time student will assist her on this work.

Library Statistics Program

A partial draft of the NCLIS report, "*Moving Toward More Effective Public Internet Access: The 1998 National Survey of Public Library Outlet Internet Connectivity*," was included in the NCLIS meeting notebook. The report, based on the NCLIS/ALA 1998 survey, was written by NCLIS Consultant Howard Harris with the assistance of Judy Russell. Ms. Russell noted that this is the first time NCLIS has issued a report separate from the contractor's report. The purpose of this separate report is to reflect the Commission's reaction to the survey findings and to include qualitative statements, recommendations, and suggestions for next step actions.

Using a power-point presentation, Ms. Russell cited several results from the *1998 National Survey of Public Library Outlets and Internet Connectivity*:

- *Universes under study:*

1996	8,928	Library Systems
1997	8,921	Library Systems
1998	15,718	Library Outlets

- *Public Library Internet Connectivity:*

1996	44%	Library Systems
1997	72%	Library Systems
1998	83.6%	Library Outlets

- *Public Internet Access in Public Libraries:*

1996	28%	Library Systems
1997	60%	Library Systems
1998	73.3%	Library Outlets

- *Public Access Internet Service by Public Library Service Area Poverty Levels:*

In Areas with Poverty Levels of less than 20%	73.2%
In Areas with Poverty levels Between 20% and 40%	72.8%
In Areas with Poverty levels Greater than 40%	79.5%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>73.3%</b>

- *Public Access Internet Service by Public Library Service Area Location:*

Urban Public Libraries	84.0%
Suburban Public Libraries	76.7%
Rural Public Libraries	67.6%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>73.3%</b>

- *Graphic Internet Access in Public Libraries*

1996	28%	Library Systems
1997	52%	Library Systems
1998	68.6%	Library Outlets

In summary, Ms. Russell recommended that the Commission consider additional partnerships and cooperatives surveys, similar to the NCLIS/ALA partnership. Several suggestions for partnerships were received: American Association of School Librarians; National Association of School Superintendents; and National Education Association.

The Members instructed the staff to poll all Commissioners within the next few weeks to obtain approval to publish the final report (which will be printed through the Government Printing Office).

Carol Henderson reported that the 1998 survey is proving to be extremely useful and expressed ALA's desire to continue such partnerships. Chairperson Simon clearly expressed NCLIS' desire to continue the NCLIS/ALA partnership surveys. Ms. Russell then asked the Commission to consider 1999 research initiatives.

### Kids and the Internet

Commissioner Anderson, participating by speaker phone, joined the Members for the discussion on "*Kids and the Internet: The Promise and the Perils.*"

Chairperson Simon noted the timeliness of the Commission's hearing on "*Kids and the Internet: the Promise and the Perils*" as evidenced by the many newspaper

articles. She noted, in particular, two editorials appearing in USA Today, December 3, 1998, entitled *Internet 'filters' harm free speech: Libraries misfire with blunderbuss response to 'Net pornography* and *Keep libraries porn-free: Libraries shouldn't become X-rated peep booths*. Mr. Willard mentioned that the statistics quoted in the editorial, "More than 70% of the nation's 15,000-plus public libraries offer Internet service," came directly from the NCLIS/ALA 1998 statistics survey.

In discussing the Commission's position, Commissioner Anderson suggested that the Commission affirm local control of libraries and establish that "All decisions on filtering or non-filtering are local decisions. It is a local decision on the part of local libraries. This is a local responsibility in the hands of local librarians."

Commissioner Anderson stated that ALA's position against filtering is "extreme and unreasonable" and seems to be out of sync with many librarians. In fact, he reported, as a result of Andrew Vachss' caution against library chat rooms, Commissioner Lucchino's Library Board has banned all open chat rooms.

In stating NCLIS' position, Commissioner Anderson called for the Commission to distinguish between pornography (awkward and offending material on the screen) and active pedophile behavior. Placing or receiving pictures of children in sex acts is a felony and the relevant statutes should be cited in NCLIS' statement. Legal citations are important to librarians because they then have clear information on which to base decisions. Finally, he suggested, "Keep the Commission's position simple. The librarians need simple suggestions – right away – which they can refer to quickly."

Commissioner Furlong expressed concern for closing down chat rooms visited by children seeking moral or social support, needing to talk about over-weight, loneliness, and/or not getting along with others on the playground. Commissioner Furlong suggested the Commission consider proposing the restriction of chat by children to "clean" sites, such as moderated chat groups or designated interactive sites (homework helpers).

Mr. Anderson replied, "You have just described why a child is so vulnerable to a predatory pedophile. You gave the precise description of how a predatory pedophile reaches a child. We can provide practical information, but we will not provide the decision for the local library. These are reasonable decisions for local librarians and boards to make. NCLIS should not be in a position of endorsing particular sites or areas. That would be a mistake on the part of the Commission." Commissioners Gould, Griffiths, and Valdez echoed their support for local control. The Members agreed with Commissioner Anderson's statement that this issue is "hot" right now and that the Commission's information and policy advice must be timely.

Commissioner Griffiths suggested the Commission develop an "educational" brochure that: (1) outlines the benefits of the Internet, as well as the perils, cautions and concerns, e.g., "We recognize the Internet as a valuable tool, but like any tool it can be abused"; (2) clearly states what constitutes a felony; and (3) explain how some libraries

are addressing these issues in their acceptable use policy. In summary, the brochure should outline the two sides of the issue and contain information needed to make informed decisions at the local level.

Commissioner Bingham stated that school libraries must be keenly aware of, and involved in, policy positions taken by public libraries in their area. Vice Chair Gould called attention to the need to educate the entities that control the money.

Mr. Willard reminded the Members that when federal money is involved, the potential exists for the government to dictate the “rules of the road.”

Commissioner Anderson called on the Commission to immediately produce a document containing practical guidelines within the First Amendment that would provide useful information to librarians and library trustees. In agreement, Commissioner Challinor stated, “We cannot handle everything. If we try to do everything, we will do nothing.”

Ms. Lamont cautioned the Commission about the use of the word “principles” in the policy paper. She suggested, rather, using three key words: promises, perils, and potential. “I think the word ‘principles’ can potentially place NCLIS in a position similar to ALA where they appear to be making a pronouncement.”

In summary, Mr. Willard requested the Commission’s permission to produce two documents:

- (1) A one-page brochure on the principles of access to the Internet by young people (by January 15, 1999); and
- (2) Hearing Transcript on “Kids and the Internet: The Promise and the Perils,” November 9, 1998.

#### **MOTION**

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Joel Valdez, that by January 1, 1999, if not sooner, the Executive Director will prepare a draft brochure on the promises, perils, potential solutions, policy issues on access to the Internet by children. If possible, this information should be published and distributed prior to ALA Midwinter.

Further, staff will prepare for publication the transcript from the November 9, 1998, hearing on *Kids and the Internet: The Promise and the Perils* as soon as possible.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Davenport suggested that the Commission’s statement be prepared before Congress convenes, about January 20, 1999.

Commissioner Abramson stated his opinion that if the library administrator and trustees do not have a written acceptable use policy statement in place they are not meeting their duties. A written acceptable use policy statement will cause a domino affect, forcing a number of other necessary actions to happen. Such a statement could serve as the “front” piece to the NCLIS policy statement.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Abe Abramson moved, seconded by Martha Gould, that the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science feels strongly that the governing body of every school and public library, in order to meet its trustee responsibilities, should establish, formally approve, and periodically review a written acceptable use policy statement on Internet access.

The motion carried unanimously.

As a homework (overnight) assignment, Vice Chair Gould requested that Members write down their thoughts and ideas on the “promise, perils, potential solutions, and policy issues” pertaining to NCLIS’ brochure on “Kids and the Internet.” With these suggestions in hand, Vice Chair Gould and Mr. Willard will begin preparing a draft on Saturday, December 5, for distribution by January 1, 1999.

### Washington State Library Commission

A briefing of the Washington State Library Commission (WSLC) was presented by Washington State Librarian Nancy Zussy, Vice Chair Linda Lambert, and Commissioners Anne Haley and Gail Pollock.

Ms. Zussy stated that the State Library operates under the WSLC, composed of the Superintendent of Public instruction as ex-officio chair and four non-salaried Commissioners appointed by the Governor for four-year terms. One Commission position is required to be a certified librarian engaged in library work at the time of appointment, and one must be a library trustee at the time of appointment. The stated mission of the Commission is: “As the corporate library for Washington State Government, we deliver information services to the legislature and state government entities as they develop and carry out public policy; and as a leader in information policy, we partner with libraries and other entities to provide ready and equitable public access to information.”

Copies of the WSL Strategic Plan. August 1997, *Designing Our Future: A Statewide Plan for Washington Libraries*, were distributed. Also distributed were copies of the Washington State Library’s brochure, *Five Year Strategic Plan 1998-2003*. The stated goal of the WSL is: “We are committed to making it easy.”

Ms. Lambert described recent activities designed to provide better access to information for library customers, such as *Find It Washington*, a government information locator service that provides access to state and local government information and creates and expands electronic linkages to help other libraries in the state, creating a 'virtual library' accessible to all Washingtonians. WSL focuses on service priorities, using objective and quantifiable performance measures to assess progress.

Anne Haley briefly discussed outreach programs to tribal libraries, which she described as "excellent services." With some 'nudging' all of the tribal libraries applied for federal grants and now receive computers and installation equipment. She also touched on her previous experience with the White House Conferences on Library and Information Services, stating, "Big groups, like NCLIS and the State Library, can make enormous differences."

Commissioner Furlong asked, "Do you see a benefit in a third White House Conference?" Responding, Ms. Haley stated, "I really do because the experience had such a personal impact. During the conference, I was struck by "democracy in action'. I would love to see a national-level meeting, however, I do not think a third conference should be in the same form. Ms. Haley suggested that Joan Ress Reeves would be an excellent person to talk to about new and innovative ideas for a third conference.

Chairperson Simon remarked that a third White House Conference is a matter of great debate among the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, the American Library Association, and NCLIS. Commissioner Furlong called Washington State a 'model,' and stated that one good reason to hold another conference is to showcase Washington's perspectives and initiatives to other communities.

Commissioner Challinor asked, "What can NCLIS do for you?" Ms. Zussy replied, "I want a strong advocate on information policy. I want a strong advocate for the access of individuals to the information they need, and all of the methodology that that entails. Our community is so small compared to other major lobbying groups (from steel to tobacco, automobiles, transportation, etc.) that we need to speak with a concerted, consistent voice among the library advocates, particularly vis-a-vis the President and Congress."

Ms. Zussy asked, "What does the Commission consider as their major issues and concerns?" In response, individual Commissioners stated:

- Policy advice and advocacy (Gould)
- Empowering older adults so that they are able to use the new technologies to access the information they need, e.g., health care (Furlong)
- Effective use of technology (Griffiths)
- Framing the issues and addressing and shaping the debate to move to the next step (Davenport, representing The Librarian of Congress).
- Access to technology, especially for young people (Bingham)

- The ‘haves’ and the ‘have nots’ and who is getting left behind; archiving our history (Challinor)
- Legislation and the importance of assuring that every member of Congress has the same degree of information about libraries (Simon)

### Washington Library Network

Paul McCarthy, Chief Executive Officer and President, Washington Library Network (WLN) since March 1996, presented an update on WLN’s programs and activities. WLN provides a broad range of innovative and high-quality technical and database services to public libraries, K-12, college, university, corporate, legal, and medial libraries as well as other institutions throughout North America and abroad. WLN’s catalog contains over 11 million bibliographic records and over 22 million local library holdings.

WLN is the only library network that reviews a portion of member cataloging records prior to their entry into the database. Mr. McCarthy briefly discussed WLN’s online system, products, cataloging services, library database preparation service, collection comparisons and analysis, and Internet services.

### Gates Library Foundation

The Commission welcomed Patty Stonesifer, President, Gates Library Foundation (GLF); Richard Akeroyd, Executive Director, GLF; Willem Scholten, Executive Director, Gates Center for Technology Access; and Carol Erickson, International Library Programs Manager, GLF.

Ms. Stonesifer presented an overview of the Foundation, including the purpose and goals, recent changes, and new horizons. Ms. Stonesifer stated, both Melinda and Bill Gates believe that the benefits of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are going to be phenomenal in two areas: (1) access to new forms of information not before accessible; and (2) breakthroughs in the medical science field. As holders of great wealth, it behooves the Gates to do what they can to improve access to improvements in these two areas. It is Bill Gate’s vision that if people can reach a public library anywhere in the United States, they will be able to reach the Internet, in the best neighborhood or in the worst neighborhood. This vision is the basis for the Foundation, and GLF works with every public library in the Nation to ensure that Bill Gate’s vision is realized.

The Foundation was created 18 months ago in Redmond, Washington, with an original commitment for \$200 million. The commitment has since been increased and assets are now in excess of \$270 million. The goal is to work with every library in low-income communities to assure that they have world-class access to the Internet. The Foundation quickly realized that training, professional development, and implementation of ongoing support was just as important as the funds being provided. At this point,

Willem Scholten of TRI, suggested that an organization that could provide the support would be a valuable asset. Last summer, TRI and GLF merged.

The Foundation has expanded its programs and the word “Library” will be dropped. However, the U.S. library program will still be the “lead” program and cornerstone project. The Foundation is beginning to explore Internet access for international libraries, as well as for other institutions, agencies, and organizations. A pilot program has begun in Washington State to work with principals and teachers to determine what the appropriate inclusion of technology in education might look like. The Foundation is now trying to determine what programs to launch that will help accelerate solutions to closing the information access gap between the poor and their better-off counterparts. “Even if we started all over again, we would begin with public libraries as the cornerstone of such an effort,” Ms. Stonesifer stated.

Ms. Stonesifer also reported that Bill and Melinda Gates have made \$3.34 billion in new donations for health and education projects worldwide. The gifts are believed to be the largest charitable donation ever. The gifts include \$2.23 billion to the Williams H. Gates Foundation, which provides grants for health, population and education projects worldwide, and various causes in the Seattle area.

Mr. Richard Akeroyd, Executive Director, Gates Library Initiative, spoke about the accomplishments within the U.S. library program. Totals to date, include \$18.6 million in cash grants; 987 buildings; 2,947 librarians trained; 3,550 PCs installed; and 2,000 help desk incidents completed. He reviewed the Foundation’s mission: *The Gates Library Foundation is dedicated to partnering with public libraries to bring access to computers, the Internet, and digital information for patrons in low-income communities in the United States and Canada.*

Mr. Akeroyd also reviewed the Foundation’s initiatives and principles, and discussed the grants program, grants process and eligibility, and state library partnerships. Statewide partnerships are cooperative relationships between the Foundation, state library agencies, schools of library science, and local libraries within a state. The Foundation provides broad funding, technical assistance and training to libraries. The aim of statewide partnerships is to expand public access to computers and the Internet, and to help build skills of library staff. Because of the Commission’s interest, Mr. Akeroyd offered to provide copies of the application for State Partnership Grants. [See NCLIS Information Document (I.D) # 99-03.]

Mr. Akeroyd stated that, “Eventually, in one way or another, the GLF will have an impact on every public library building in the country.” They expect to reach 39+ million people in poverty and the digital divide; ultimately 40,000+ PCs and servers will be granted; and 43,000 librarians trained. Beginning January 1999, one state will be completed per month, the remaining 43 states will be completed by June 2003. The underlying principles for state partnerships were highlighted:

- Library community support and commitment
- Grants made at the building level

- Training at the building level
- Unmediated public access to the PCs and the Internet
- Leveraging and sustainability
- Certification by appropriate authorities

Mr. Willem Scholten, Executive Director, Gates Center for Technology Access, GCTA, explained that Technology Resource Institute was funded by a GLF grant. They provide technical and installation support for libraries and training of librarians and community volunteers on how to effectively manage computer systems, use digital information, and provide assistance to their patrons. The support system includes telephone technical support from its Seattle headquarters and teams of trainers and technicians in the field.

Mr. Scholten stated that GCTA considers filtering to be a local library decision. The Foundation's grants do not cover filtering software. GCTA, however, serves as filtering technical resources when required and librarians are taught profiling applicable to their own guidelines.

Commissioner Furlong asked if there seems to be a concern on the part of librarians regarding chat rooms. In Mr. Scholten's opinion, among high school students, properly used chat rooms are a very empowering tool.

Ms. Carol Erickson, International Library Programs Manager, Gates Library Initiative, briefly described the new international program. The goal of the program is: *To infuse public libraries in the international arena with the knowledge, expertise, and commitment to provide free public access computing and Internet access to library users in low-income communities.* "There is such a great need internationally. It is very realistic to talk about closing the digital divide within the United States. But we cannot accomplish that challenge around the world," she stated.

Opportunities for cooperative programs are based on the ability to build on existing infrastructure; strong potential for sustainability; and shared commitment to the GLI vision. The first effort will begin in Canada with the anticipated start of implementation beginning in 1999 in all 13 Provinces. US/Mexico border-to-border (Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Texas) pilot projects are anticipated, with a major commitment into Mexico. Presently, planning for work in other countries remains in a research/fact-finding and data gathering stage.

Commissioner Valdez informed Ms. Erickson about the Commission's Sister Libraries Millennium Project, noting the similarity between the two projects. Commissioner Challinor offered to keep in contact with Ms. Erickson to discuss the two projects.

At the invitation of the Gates Library Foundation, the Members and staff toured GCTA to meet and talk with the staff of librarians, educators, and systems engineers.

## Friday, December 4, 1998

From 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. the Members and staff toured the Seattle Public Library led by Deborah Jacobs, City Librarian, and her staff.

### Public Access to Government Information

Using a powerpoint presentation, Ms. Russell reported on the progress of the Commission's project, Public Access to Government Information. Ms. Russell briefly reviewed the project's background, milestones, participating agencies, and process. The good news is that the project is on schedule and within budget. There have been 330 products surveyed, and a total of 174 survey responses have been received (as of 11/24/98). The possibility of a 30-day extension in the schedule is being considered if necessary to increase response rate (at no cost to the government). The analysis is just beginning, and it is too early for results or conclusions.

Commissioner Furlong urged the Commission to establish contact with Elliot Maxwell, Special Advisor for Digital Economy, Department of Commerce, whom she called, "a friend and the guardian of the Internet." She suggested that it would be beneficial to brief Mr. Maxwell on the Commission's study on Public Access to Government Information and the five surveys on public libraries and the Internet. Commissioner Furlong offered to arrange a luncheon meeting in January/February 1999 and invited Commissioners to join. The meeting will be coordinated by Commissioner Furlong and Mr. Willard.

### SF WoW

Commissioner Furlong reported that on January 20, 1999, the San Francisco Women on the Web (WoW) will name the "Top 25 Women on the Web" awards. A Commissioner has been nominated; however, the name cannot be divulged at this time. The award recognizes the achievements of 25 local and national women who have most inspired people worldwide with their efforts to advance technology, contributions to the community, and set as examples as successful business women in the Internet and new media industries. Commissioner Furlong extended invitations to attend to all Commissioners.

### International Survey

Mr. Willard reported on the progress of the *Survey of U.S. Participation in International Organizations and Activities Which Address Major Library and Information Policy Issues*. On November 15, 1998, letters were sent to many individuals

active in international library and information science policy issue discussions and debates. The letter requested these individuals to support the Commission's endeavor by:

- Issuing a press release;
- Mentioning the survey as an information item in their regular communications, and by posting mention on web sites;
- Mentioning the survey's purpose and uses on their workshop and conference agendas; and
- Providing NCLIS with a mailing list of international special interest groups or committees.

Mr. Willard stated, "There are a number of people within the country engaged in international library and information service outreach activities. Never before has there been an attempt to keep track of who they are and their activities." Mr. Willard welcomed additional advice and input from NCLIS Members.

#### Comments from NCLIS Liaisons

Carol Henderson, ALA, stated that the 1970 and 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services served as a "spur" to library advocates. The WHCLIST (White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce) has expressed interest in "something like" a White House Conference, but everyone agrees it should be of a different scope and cost less than the two past conferences. She asked, "Is there a less expensive way to hold a national forum that would still be visible to funders and policy makers and still be a "spur" to library advocates?" ALA is hosting a meeting to explore interest in a national forum on library and information services. NCLIS is one of the groups invited to attend a meeting on Saturday, January 30, 1999, during ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia.

Bridget Lamont, COSLA, suggestion a National Issues Forum, i.e., non-partisan discussions about timely public policy issues based on the tradition of early American town meetings. "Realistically, you cannot expect that every state will be involved. But, you can assume that a community within every state will want to be involved in a National Issues Forum," she stated. Commissioner Furlong urged that the words "White House" be included because then "people return your calls."

Ms. Lamont asked Mr. Willard for his help with a major ownership and digitization test project in Illinois. The Chairperson stated she was delighted that Mr. Willard can assist on his own time.

Ms. Lamont outlined several issues that the Commission has touched on that are also of interest to local and state librarians:

- (1) The importance of gathering information on school library media centers. There is a real urgency to gather this type of information;

- (2) Given the new Library Services and Technology Act, the Internet connectivity statistics are very important, especially impacts and outcomes of being connected; and
- (3) Telecommunication issues, costs, and training. This is a growing, growing issue; remember that there is more to the story, and the other shoe will drop.

On the issue of the Commission's document on "Kids and the Internet," Ms. Henderson suggested pre-testing the draft with selected working librarians, creating a real world approach with feedback and suggestions. The Members agreed with this approach. Commissioner Furlong recommended using an E-mail list, which usually gets a fast response.

Mr. Willard reminded the Members that library education is one of the topics for the April 7-8, 1999, NCLIS meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The other major topics include: (1) End results of the scholarly publishing survey work from Professor Mackie-Mason; Information, Economics and Public Policy; and (2) Digital libraries and digitization at the University of Michigan. The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) 9<sup>th</sup> National Conference is scheduled from April 8-11 in Detroit, and joint activities between NCLIS and ACRL leadership are being arranged.

Beth Bingham of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, urged the Commission to focus, focus, focus, to look to the future of the Internet, and map the vision for libraries to 2008. Chairperson Simon thanked Ms. Bingham for her vision and concept of strategy planning for the future. Commissioner Furlong agreed and stressed the need to "get up to speed" on cable modems and patterns of usage data.

Peyton Neal, IIA, stated that this is his last meeting representing IIA (Information Industry Association). On December 31, 1998, IIA and the Software Publishers Association will merge to become the Software and Information Industry Association. Hopefully, there will be a continuing relationship between the new association and NCLIS. Mr. Neal urged the Commission to follow through on the Title 44 issue. Chairperson Simon expressed the Commission's appreciation for his contributions as the IIA liaison.

#### Approval of NCLIS Minutes

#### **MOTION**

It was moved by Joel Valdez, seconded by Martha Gould, that the minutes of the NCLIS meeting, September 27-28, 1998, be approved as submitted.

The motion carried unanimously.

## Executive Director's Report

Mr. Willard reported that during IFLA he met Mathew Evans, the CEO of the Library and Information Commission, London, England, a commission modeled after NCLIS. Next week, at the Library of Congress, there will be a breakfast meeting and tour for Mathews Evans with Chairperson Simon, Mr. Billington, Mr. Tabb, Commissioner Challinor, and Mr. Willard.

The November 1998 NCLIS financial report was distributed and briefly reviewed. Mr. Willard noted that the newly-established NCLIS Audit Committee can serve as a vehicle for insight regarding month-to-month expenditures. Commissioner Abramson noted that once the office's Intranet is established, financial reports, along with forward calendaring, can be easily shared.

## Future NCLIS Meetings

The following NCLIS meeting scheduled was proposed:

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| April 7-8, 1999     | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (in conjunction with the Association of College and Research Libraries 9 <sup>th</sup> National Conference, April 8-11, Detroit) |
| July 8-9            | Gallaudet University, Washington, DC, including forum on library and information services for physically challenged persons  |
| September 23-24     | NCLIS/National Museum Services Board Meeting, Wash. DC   |
| November 4-5        | Washington, DC (in conjunction with the American Society for Information Science Annual Meeting, November 1-4)   |
| January 20-21, 2000 | Los Angeles, CA (invitation from both the Los Angeles Public Library and the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> )  |

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Joel Valdez, to adopt the proposed meeting schedule.

The motion carried unanimously.

Several Commissioners noted their interest in attending the following conferences and meetings:

*ALA Midwinter Meeting*, January 29-February 23, 1999, Philadelphia, PA:  
Martha Gould; Abe Abramson

*Mountain Plains Library Association/Montana Library Association*, June 13-16, 1999,  
Big Sky, MT  
Abe Abramson

*ALA Annual Conference*, June 24-July 1, 1999, New Orleans, LA  
Martha Gould

*National Conference of African American Librarians*, July 19-22, 1999, Las Vegas, NV  
Rebecca Bingham; Martha Gould  
(Commissioner Furlong suggested exploring the possibility of Commissioners Bingham  
and Burton being invited to talk about Commission activities and literacy)

*IFLA Annual Conference*, August 20-28, 1999, Bangkok:  
Abe Abramson, Mary Furlong

*American Association of School Librarians National Conference*, November 10-14, 1999,  
Birmingham, AL  
Rebecca Bingham

*ALA Midwinter*, January 14-19, 2000, San Antonio, TX  
Jeanne Simon; Martha Gould

*Public Library Association*, March 28-April 1, 2000  
Martha Gould

*IFLA General Conference*, August 13-18, 2000, Jerusalem, Israel  
Martha Gould

*IFLA General Conference*, August 2001, Boston, MA  
All NCLIS Members

Chairperson Simon noted the importance of Commission presentations, program  
appearances, speeches, etc., at meetings and conferences.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon