

# News Release: American Library Association

We do our utmost with understanding the importance of sensitivity in dealing

Public Information Office      Personnel of many skills and aspirations. The new appointee should be  
American Library Association      committed to excellence of service to Congress, government, other libraries, and  
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From: Peggy Barber, Director  
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For immediate release

The American Library Association has followed with interest the news that President Ford may nominate Daniel J. Boorstin for Senate confirmation as the twelfth Librarian of Congress.

Throughout the two-year search for a successor to Mr. Mumford, the ALA has emphasized continually that the next Librarian of Congress should have proven administrative and leadership capability in addition to professional experience and prominence in library affairs.

The ALA has also called attention to the need to appreciate the Library's multiple roles of serving the information and research needs of the Congress and the scholarly community while performing more national library functions than does any other library in the world. In doing so it has amassed perhaps the world's largest and richest collection of recorded knowledge employing over 4,500 persons with an attendant budget exceeding \$120 million.

In recent years the Library has experienced the not uncommon growth pains of large complex organizations in the form of overcrowded conditions and technological change accompanied by considerable staff unrest.

Nevertheless, the Library of Congress has at this time a splendid opportunity to build upon the respect in which it is held. To do so, will require a highly capable and experienced Librarian fully familiar with the prospects for and progress toward new applications of technology.

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He or she should also understand the importance of sensitivity in dealing with personnel of many skills and aspirations. The new appointee should be committed to excellence of service to Congress, government, other libraries, and the people.

Dr. Boorstin has impressive credentials as an eminent historian and successful author. However, the American Library Association would view his appointment as inconsistent with the requirements for the Librarian of Congress which we recommended to the President and his advisers and not in the best interest of the functioning of the Library of Congress as we understand it.

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