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Attachment: Message from President Carter on WHCLIS

WHCLIS Presidential Message

President Carter, September 26, submitted to Congress the Report of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services together with his response to the WHCLIS recommendations. Among other things, he said, "I believe we have viewed libraries too narrowly. The needs of the public who must cope with our increasingly complex society can only be met by libraries actively providing access to the great variety of information they have....To survive as community institutions, libraries must be strengthened and the public made more aware of their potential." The full text of his message is attached to this newsletter. Among the more specific commitments are the following:

1. To request increased funding in FY 1982 for resource sharing among libraries, research and development in information technologies, and research libraries.
2. To submit new legislation to replace the Library Services and Construction Act which will expire in 1982. This legislation will include such issues as: a) barriers to information access for the handicapped and disadvantaged, b) library networking and resource sharing, c) the role of large urban libraries and research libraries as centers for library resource networks, and d) new information technologies.
3. To affirm the key role of the depository libraries in OMB's federal information policy.
4. To encourage and support the special role libraries can play in helping federal agencies disseminate information that people need.
5. To select three to five Federal Information Centers and locate them together with libraries; to expand this program if successful.
6. To direct the Education Department to coordinate federal efforts to eliminate functional illiteracy, including working with libraries.
7. To direct the Interior Department to analyze and provide recommendations to overcome geographical barriers to information, such as those faced by persons living on an Indian reservation, a Pacific Island, or in an isolated area.

8. To send to the Senate a protocol to the Florence Agreement of 1952 further liberalizing the international exchange of materials and information.

9. To aggressively pursue research and development into new information technologies and their application, and appropriate standards.

10. To direct the Commerce Department to work with the library community to make satellite and other emerging communication technologies available where it is cost-effective for networking and other purposes.

11. To support a conference of independent experts to develop an agenda for library research in the 1980s (a contract to be funded by the Higher Education Act II-B research and demonstration program).

12. To encourage the library and information science communities to propose technology assessment studies for consideration by federal agencies.

The law which authorized WHCLIS (PL 93-568) required the President to submit the conference report to Congress. The Interagency Task Force report, on which the President's message was presumably based, was considered an internal working document, and was not released to the public nor submitted to Congress.

Appropriations, FY 1981 - Continuing Resolution

Congress finally cleared a stop-gap funding measure for the entire federal government on October 1, the first day of the new fiscal year. Now PL 96-369, the continuing resolution (H. J. Res. 610) was necessary because Congress has not completed action on its regular funding bills. Passed by the House September 18 and by the Senate September 29, the House-Senate conference version (H. Rept. 96-1443) was delayed by a controversy over federal funding for abortions. Contributing to the pressure and uncertainty was a recent Attorney General ruling that once appropriations run out, federal agencies may spend funds only to close down operations.

In general, H. J. Res. 610 continues funding through December 15 for each program at the lower of either the current level or the House-passed appropriations bill. For the Education Department library programs, the current level prevails for the time being as shown below:

	FY 1980 Appropriation	FY '81 as passed by House (HR 7998)	FY 1981 Contin. Res.
<u>Elementary & Secondary Educ. Act</u>			
Title IV-B, School libraries	\$171,000,000*	\$171,000,000*	\$171,000,000*
<u>Higher Education Act</u>			
Title II-A, College libraries	4,988,000	4,988,000	4,988,000
II-B, Training	667,000	667,000	667,000
II-B, Demonstrations	333,000	500,000	333,000
II-C, Research libraries	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000
<u>Library Services & Construction Act</u>			
Title I, Library services	62,500,000	62,500,000	62,500,000
III, Interlibrary coop.	5,000,000	12,000,000	5,000,000

*Advance funded program

ACTION NEEDED: Congress has recessed for the election, but will return November 12 for a post-election session, and must take further action to provide funds for the rest of FY 1981. Urge your Senators to act on the regular Labor-Health & Human Services-Education Dept. appropriations bill (HR 7998) with adequate funding for library programs. It is especially important that the Senate version of HR 7998 include at least the House-passed increases for LSCA III and HEA II-B research and demonstrations.

Higher Education Act Extension

A five-year extension of the Higher Education Act (HR 5192, the Education Amendments of 1980, was signed into law (PL 96-374) by President Carter October 3 on the campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Although the Senate had rejected a House-Senate conference agreement (H. Rept. 96-1251) on the bill by a vote of 43-45 on September 4, the conferees reached a new agreement September 16 which lowered the cost of the student loan programs and reduced many of the authorization levels, but made no changes to title II college and research library and library training and research and demonstration programs. This second conference agreement (H. Rept. 96-1337) was approved by the House September 18 by voice vote and by the Senate September 25 by a vote of 83-6. Title II library provisions are summarized below.

HEA II-A, College Library Resources. The basic grant for each eligible institution is renamed "Resource Development Grant," and the maximum raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Need criteria had been considered by Congress earlier, but were not added. Authorization levels are \$10 million for FY 1981, \$30 million for each of fiscal years 1982, 1983, and 1984, and \$35 million for FY 1985. The purpose is expanded to include "establishment and maintenance of networks for sharing library resources," as well as acquisition of library materials. Maintenance of effort is no longer required for total library purposes, only for library materials expenditures. Waivers of maintenance of effort are restricted to "very unusual circumstances," mainly "acts of god." Supplemental grants are deleted; special purpose grants moved to Part B.

HEA II-B, Library Training, Research, and Development. Authorizations are \$10 million for FY 1981, \$30 million for each of fiscal years 1982, 1983, and 1984, and \$35 million for FY 1985, to be divided equally among an expanded, three-part program: 1) Library Career Training. Grants for fellowships and traineeships (which must receive at least 50 percent of the training funds), institutes, and "to establish, develop, or expand programs of library and information science, including new techniques of information transfer and communication technology." 2) Research and Demonstrations. Grants "for research and demonstration projects related to the improvement of libraries, training in librarianship, and information technology, and for the dissemination of information derived from such projects." 3) Special Purpose Grants. Transferred from II-A and expanded. Grants would assist higher education institutions to meet special national or regional library or information science needs; establish and strengthen joint-use library facilities, resources, or equipment; service their communities; and, with other library institutions, improve academic library services. Special purpose grants are not restricted to acquisition of library materials.

HEA II-C, Strengthening Research Library Resources. Continued essentially unchanged, with authorization levels of \$10 million for FY 1981, and \$15 million for each of the succeeding four years. The regional balance requirement is loosened from the former "shall...achieve regional balance" to "shall endeavor to achieve broad and equitable geographical distribution." The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee provided some direction on future grants. According to S. Rept. 96-733, the "Committee believes that at least twice as many grants as are currently being made should be awarded" and it "encourages the Secretary to take care to see that the same small number of institutions do not continue to receive grants year after year."

HEA II-D, National Periodical System. This new program establishes a nonprofit National Periodical System Corporation to "assess the feasibility and advisability of a national system and, if feasible and advisable, design such a system to provide reliable and timely document delivery from a comprehensive collection of periodical literature." The Presidentially-appointed Board is to "be equitably representative of the needs and interests of the Government, academic and research communities, libraries, publishers, the information community, authors, and the public." A

system design must be submitted to Congress by December 31, 1981, and would require a congressional resolution of approval before implementation. Authorizations are \$750,000 for FY 1981, \$750,000 for FY 1982, and such sums as necessary for the succeeding three years. No funds could be appropriated for II-D unless II-A, B and C are funded at FY 1979 levels--that is, \$9.9 million for II-A, \$3 million for II-B, and \$6 million for II-C.

Other provisions of interest in the extended Higher Education Act include:

HEA I, Continuing Postsecondary Education Program and Planning. Part A establishes a new Commission on National Development in Postsecondary Education. Its study will include the special needs of nontraditional and adult students, a major emphasis throughout title I. Part B, Education Outreach Programs, combines comprehensive state planning from section 1203, educational information centers from title IV, community service and continuing education from title I. Authorizations are \$20 million for FY 1981, \$30 million for '82, \$40 million for '83, \$50 million for '84, and \$60 million for '85. Ninety percent of the funds are allocated to the states, ten percent are for federal discretionary grants.

States must use at least \$50,000 but not more than 12 percent of their allotments, for information services (formerly educational information centers) designed "to develop and coordinate new and existing educational and occupational information and counseling programs to eliminate unnecessary duplication and to provide a more comprehensive delivery of services to both traditional and nontraditional learners seeking educational information and to youth and adults seeking occupational information." States may do this by grant or contract with other institutions and organizations. Libraries could be eligible depending on the state plan for information services.

HEA III, Institutional Aid (formerly Developing Institutions). Although a number of changes have been made in title III, including the addition of challenge grants, the purposes for which funds may be used continue to include "joint use of facilities such as libraries and laboratories." Among the factors determining eligibility for part B special assistance is "limited library resources." The purpose of title III is to strengthen institutions which enroll large numbers of disadvantaged students, lack resources and are taking steps to improve their chances for survival.

HEA IV, Student Assistance. The work-study program is continued, with authorizations increasing from \$670 million in FY 1981 to \$830 million in FY 1985. Work-study students must be paid the minimum wage. Institutions are encouraged to provide employment that complements the educational program of a student. The maximum federal share of work-study wages is 80 percent except under special circumstances.

HEA V, Teacher Training Programs. There is to be at least one Teacher Center in each state, with a new emphasis on updating teachers in the use of technology and telecommunications.

HEA VI, International Education Programs. The new title VI incorporates title VI of the National Defense Education Act, some provisions from the International Education Act, and the recommendations of the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies. The cost of teaching and research materials is an eligible expenditure under part A Language and Area Centers and International Studies Centers programs. In addition, under Language and Area Centers, funds may be used for maintenance of important library collections at higher education institutions. Authorizations for VI-A are \$45 million for FY 1981, \$50 million for '82, \$60 million for '83, \$70 million for '84, and \$80 million for '85. Other title VI programs include part B, Business and International Education Programs, and a new part N of ESEA III, International Understanding.

HEA VII, Construction, Reconstruction, and Renovations of Academic Facilities.

Grants for construction, reconstruction or renovation of academic facilities (including libraries) and the acquisition of special equipment. Priorities include projects for energy conservation; handicapped access; meeting health and safety requirements, including dealing with asbestos hazards; research facilities, including libraries; and projects to cope with unusual increases in enrollment. For each of the five years authorizations are \$100 million for the state grant program, \$80 million for the institutional grant program, and \$80 million for the loan program.

HEA IX, Graduate Programs. Public service fellowships are continued, with some changes, and a new program of up to 450 graduate fellowships in the arts, humanities, and social sciences is established. A presidentially-appointed National Graduate Fellows Program Fellowship Board would establish policy, including for each year how many fellowships and in which fields they are to be awarded.

HEA XI, Urban Grant University Program. Competitive grants for 90 percent of the cost of assisting urban higher education institutions to develop, in conjunction with local officials, responses to needs and problems of their urban areas. An urban area is a SMSA with 50,000 or more population. States without one may designate an area. An urban university is located in an urban area, draws a substantial portion of its students from the area, is capable of providing authorized services, and offers a wide range of graduate or professional programs. Consortiums are eligible if one member meets the qualifications. Authorizations increase from \$15 million in FY 1981 to \$55 million in FY 1985.

Other. The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education is extended under title X, and the National Institute of Education under title XIII. Title XIII also amends the General Education Provisions Act in several ways. Advance funded programs such as the ESEA IV-B school library resources program would have a two-year automatic extension provision, while other programs such as LSCA and the HEA II library programs would continue to have a one-year automatic extension of authorizations. Congress is authorized under GEPA to disapprove Education Department regulations in whole or in part.

Taxation - Thor Power Tool Decision

A January 1979 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the case of Thor Power Tool Co. vs. Commissioner of Internal Revenue and Revenue Ruling 80-60 which implements it, have generated protests from publishers and librarians. The Thor decision requires accounting changes for inventories, while Revenue Ruling 80-60 makes the changes retroactive to fiscal year 1979. The retroactive ruling will have the effect of distorting the 1979 income of book publishers. In order to avoid a crippling tax penalty, publishers will have two choices: 1) offer their inventory for sale at less than cost; 2) destroy their unsold books. As a result, publishers could be forced to destroy slow-selling book inventories in order to avoid a severe one-time tax adjustment. ALA is concerned that the destruction of publishers' backlists will cause a grave problem for the nation's libraries, limiting the availability of backlists for purchase, and resulting in more titles going "out-of-print."

S. 2805, introduced by Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-WI), will reduce the burden of the tax liability on publishers by preventing the IRS ruling from being applied retroactively. The bill is pending in the Senate Committee on Finance. However, ALA believes that enactment of S. 2805 is only a first step in the legislative remedy required to overcome the impact of the Thor decision on book publishers. Two Representatives introduced bills similar to S. 2805. Barber Conable (R-NY) has sponsored HR 7390 and HR 7704. HR 8154 has been introduced by Ed Jenkins (D-GA). The three House measures have been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Communications Act Revision

Major revision of the Communications Act of 1934 has apparently died for this congressional session. The House bill, HR 6121, although approved by the Commerce Committee, received a recommendation of postponement from the Judiciary Committee. The major events of the last few months are as follows:

The House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, by a vote of 34-7 on July 31, approved HR 6121, a major revision of the common carrier provisions of current law, and issued its report (H. Rept. 96-1252) on the bill August 25. On August 19, HR 6121 was referred to the Judiciary Committee at the request of its Chair, Rep. Peter Rodino (D-NJ), so that the committee could consider whether the bill would affect the Justice Department's antitrust suit against AT&T. The Monopolies and Commercial Law Subcommittee, also chaired by Rodino, held two days of hearings, and on September 25 reported the bill adversely, but without prejudice to further consideration in the 97th Congress. On August 30 the full Judiciary Committee agreed, taking care to point out that the committee did not oppose appropriate communications legislation, but did not have enough time to resolve the complex antitrust issues. The Judiciary Committee has not yet issued its report on the bill.

No action has been taken on the Senate version of Communications Act revision, S. 2827. Sen. Howard Cannon (D-NV) and Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-SC), Chairmen of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and its Communications Subcommittee, respectively, announced in a press release July 30 that comments received on the bill "pose serious questions and test certain underlying assumptions." They concluded that "adequate exploration of these questions will require comprehensive hearings" which may not be held until next session.

NCLIS

Three members nominated by President Carter to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science were confirmed by the Senate September 23. Confirmed for five-year terms are Charles Benton, Chairman of NCLIS and Chairman of the Board, Films, Inc.; Gordon M. Ambach, New York State Commissioner of Education; and Paulette H. Holahan, Chairman, New Orleans Public Library Board. NCLIS announced September 8 the appointment of Dr. Toni Carbo Bearman as the new Executive Director. A librarian and information scientist, she is completing a special project at the Institute of Electrical Engineers in London, and was Executive Director of the National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services from 1974-79.

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*           COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS - INFO NEEDED!
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*           The Department of Housing and Urban Development is reviewing its
* regulations of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
* (September 5, 1980 Federal Register, p. 59071). The ALA Washington
* Office will ask HUD to make it clear that CDBG assistance to libraries
* is permissible when they qualify as eligible neighborhood facilities.
* Libraries are eligible under certain conditions, but the current regs
* confuse the issue by listing libraries as exceptions under the heading
* of ineligible activities. Please send the ALA Washington Office by
* October 27, examples of experiences, both successful and unsuccessful,
* which public libraries have had with local government and HUD
* officials in establishing eligibility for a CDBG under sec. 570.207
* (a)(2)(i) (see August 27, 1979 Federal Register, p. 50258).
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NEH Youth Project Grants

The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced a December 1, 1980 deadline for submission of preliminary proposals to NEH Youth Projects for Major Project Grants. The grants are designed to encourage new and challenging out-of-classroom opportunities for young people in the humanities, which include history, philosophy, literature, history and criticism of the arts, and those aspects of the social sciences employing historical or philosophical approaches. During 1980, approximately one-third of the grants are supporting cultural organizations, such as libraries, working with youth in humanities activities during after-school hours, weekends, and vacations. The Major Project Grant application deadline is January 15, 1981 for projects beginning after July 1, 1981.

For additional information, write for NEH Youth Projects guidelines: Public Affairs Office, Mail Stop 351, National Endowment for the Humanities, 806 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. Telephone (person-to-person collect): Jann Gilmore or Heliana Kley Meyer (202) 724-0396.

FIPSE Shaughnessy Scholars Grants

In 1980-81, the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education will offer a maximum of 20 grants under the new Shaughnessy Scholars Grants program. This program will provide support to individuals to produce a document or engage in an activity which will significantly advance knowledge of practical solutions to problems in postsecondary education. Awards will be made to institutions, applying on behalf of individual Shaughnessy Scholar nominees. These individuals may be working as faculty, consultants, evaluators, administrators and counselors in colleges and universities, in state and local agencies, in libraries, unions and museums, in community-based organizations. Also, they may apply through professional associations with which they are affiliated. Proposals may request a maximum of 15 months of support and a maximum grant of \$18,000. Deadline is October 17, 1980. For program guidelines contact: Shaughnessy Scholars Program, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Room 3123, Washington, D.C. 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-8091.

NIE Research Grants

Applications are being accepted for grants in the Program of Research Grants on Teaching and Learning. Closing date is January 27, 1981 for new awards that are to be considered in FY 1981 (September 5 Federal Register, pp. 58935-58936). Awards will be made for research which will contribute to improvement of educational practice and equity in the areas of Language and Literacy, Basic Cognitive Skills, Teaching in School Settings, and Testing and Evaluation. Any institution of higher education, state, local, or intermediate educational agency, public or private non-profit or for-profit agency, organization, group, individual, or any combination of these, is an eligible applicant. A copy of the program announcement can be obtained by sending a self-addressed mailing label to the Grants Program Staff, Teaching and Learning Program, National Institute of Education, 1200 19th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208. The following program officers may be contacted for additional information: Language and Literacy -- Ramsey Selden or Mae Chu Chang, Tel: (202) 254-5766; Basic Cognitive Skills -- Joseph Psotka, Tel: (202) 254-6572; Teaching in School Settings -- Michael Cohen, Tel: (202) 254-7946; Testing and Evaluation -- Cora Corry, Tel: (202) 254-6271.



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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER ON WHCLIS

September 26, 1980

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to you the Report of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services and my own recommendations on public access to information, as required by Sec. 1(d) of Public Law 93-568 of December 31, 1974.

Information is the essence of education and the lifeblood of democracy. People need accurate information to make the personal and political decisions that will shape the country's future. The production and distribution of information is a significant factor in our economy. A technological explosion is reshaping the way information is stored and communicated, while rising costs and limited resources strain the public institutions that make information accessible.

The White House Conference considered all these issues. It examined our information needs and problems and the key role of libraries in meeting them. The delegates included librarians, information specialists and community leaders. They were selected at conferences in every state and territory, through a process that involved 100,000 people. I wish to commend the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for its key role in making the Conference a success. The Conference theme was "Bringing Information to the People." Its recommendations will help us frame an information policy for the 1980s.

The Importance of Libraries

Since the beginning of our Nation, libraries have played an important role in providing citizens with the information they need to guide our destiny. Our First Amendment rights have been strengthened by the independent status of libraries free from government control. By preserving the records of our history and culture, libraries serve as a door into our past. As a source of the information we need to direct our lives, they also serve as a door into our future. As we plan for the information requirements of the 1980s and beyond, we should acknowledge the contributions that libraries have made and ensure they remain vital.

Most libraries are local institutions, under local control. State and local governments bear the responsibility for supporting and operating public and school libraries. I agree with the White House Conference that this principle must be maintained.

At the same time, the Federal Government has assumed a special role of helping libraries provide access to information for all. The Government also provides leadership in developing new technologies and services, and encouraging resource sharing among all types of libraries. This Federal role complements the basic responsibilities of state and local governments. My Administration has worked with Congress to fulfill that role.

To ensure that library programs get the attention they deserve, we created an Office of Libraries and Learning Technologies in the new Department of Education, headed by a Deputy Assistant Secretary.

Overall Federal support for libraries has increased by almost 30% since the beginning of my Administration. We proposed improvements in the Higher Education Act to strengthen support for library research and demonstration and training programs and for college and research libraries. We supported literacy and school library and media programs through our 1978 amendments to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

My 1982 budget request to Congress will reflect our response to the Conference recommendations for increased budgetary support for resource sharing among libraries; research and development in information technologies; and research libraries.

The Conference recommended a new National Library and Information Services Act to redefine the Federal role. I will submit new legislation to replace the Library Services and Construction Act which will expire in 1982. This legislation will include such issues as:

- o barriers to information access for the handicapped and disadvantaged;
- o library networking and resource sharing;
- o the role of large urban libraries and research libraries as centers for library resource networks; and
- o new information technologies.

I urge the Congress, the library community, and the public to join in the discussion during the next year on the priorities among these important concerns.

Government Information

The Federal Government has a special responsibility to ensure that its information is made available to the people. Open government is vital to democracy. We must also recognize the constraints of national security, privacy, efficient decision making, and costs.

We are working to address these concerns in a way that increases access to information. A new office has been established in the Office of Management and Budget to develop Federal information policy. This office is working closely with the agencies, libraries, and private sector to develop a policy on the management and dissemination of information by Federal agencies. This policy will affirm the key role of the Federal depository libraries as centers where citizens can obtain free access to government publications.

The policy will also stress the special role libraries can play in helping Federal agencies disseminate information that people need. We should not create new delivery systems when libraries, with strong community bases, can do the job. The Denver Public Library is one example of a library that is working closely with several agencies to make consumer and environmental information available. I encourage and support cooperation like this. To foster such partnership, I have

directed the Administrator of the General Services Administration to work with the library community and the Department of Education to select three to five Federal Information Centers and locate them together with libraries. If this cooperative effort is as successful as I expect, I will expand the program.

My Administration has also taken a number of other initiatives to improve and enhance public access to government information. For example:

- o We revamped the security classification system to eliminate needless initial classification and reduce the time that documents remain classified while strengthening protection for necessary secrets. About 250 million pages of documents will be released because of this change.
- o The Freedom of Information Act is being administered fairly. The Department of Justice has instructed agencies to release information that could legally be withheld if the release could not be clearly harmful.
- o Our policy on industrial innovation calls for an improvement in the dissemination of patent information, which will make over 4 million patents accessible.
- o The National Technical Information Service has expanded the indexing and dissemination systems available to scientists and engineers.
- o Increases were requested for the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, an agency which has a vital leadership and coordination role in library and information science at the national level.

The Needs of the Disadvantaged

The Conference report serves as a reminder that too many of our citizens are cut off from the information available to most of us. One of the greatest barriers is functional illiteracy. To overcome this problem, I have directed the Department of Education to take the lead in coordinating Federal efforts to eliminate functional illiteracy. Their task will be to identify methods and programs of demonstrated value and to work with local education agencies, libraries, and voluntary organizations to implement these programs. Twenty percent of our Americans are functionally illiterate, and we must expand our commitment to helping these people obtain the basic skills they need.

Under my Administration, a new Basic Skills Improvement Program was authorized in 1979. Its overall objective is to bring about national improvement in student achievement in the fundamentals of education -- reading, writing, speaking and mathematics.

We are working to assist disabled Americans. At my request, the broadcasting networks helped establish a pilot closed-captioning television system to permit the hearing-impaired to share the educational and entertainment shows available to everyone. In addition, the Library of Congress and the Department of Education are working to provide special materials, equipment and services for those with physical handicaps and learning disabilities.

Another frequently overlooked barrier to information is geography. Many Americans are denied access to information because of where they live, such as an Indian reservation, a Pacific Island, or an isolated area. To address these problems and those of other persons isolated from information due to their location, I am directing the Department of the Interior to analyze these issues and provide recommendations to me.

I will soon send to the Senate a protocol to the Florence Agreement of 1952 further liberalizing the exchange of books and information and reducing barriers to international understanding. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science has already begun working with the International Federation of Library Associations.

The New Information and Communications Technologies

New technologies are revolutionizing the ways in which we create, store and disseminate information. For example, the text of 3,200 books can now be stored on a 12-inch videodisc which costs \$20. In the library, computers are replacing the card catalog. The sum of changes like these will have a major impact on our lives.

My Administration is actively encouraging the creative application of these technologies for the benefit of all individuals. As the largest user of computer technology in the world, the Federal government plays a major role in deciding how this technology is applied everywhere. We are using technology to provide government services, including information, in new and better ways. A number of agencies are actively involved in conducting or supporting research and development into new technologies and their application. We shall aggressively pursue such research. We also have a program to develop standards which will enhance our ability to transfer technology.

We have worked to remove regulations that prevent competition and constrain application of the new technologies. The Federal Communications Commission is completing a dramatic overhaul of its regulations, opening up competition and promoting diversity. Recent actions are creating 1000 new radio stations and a whole new class of community TV stations. We developed a program which has doubled minority ownership of broadcast stations. We are working with Congress to pass legislation to reduce regulation and promote competition in telecommunications. The explosion of outlets in the electronic media provides special opportunities for libraries. For example, libraries can work with cable TV systems to program public service channels. Competition will stimulate innovation, increase productivity, and make the communications industries more responsive to consumer demands.

Actions we have taken to realize the public dividend from the new technologies include:

-- My space policy, which is helping public service producers use satellites to cut their communication costs. The Commerce Department is responsible for this program, and I am directing them to work with the library community to make satellite and other emerging communication technologies available where it is cost-effective for networking and other purposes.

- The Department of Education will support a conference of independent experts to develop an agenda for library research in the 1980s.
- The library and information science communities will be encouraged to propose technology assessment studies for consideration by Federal agencies.

As our society expands use of the new information technologies, we must protect our personal privacy. Last year I proposed the Nation's first comprehensive privacy policy. Five privacy bills are now before Congress, covering medical, bank, insurance and other types of records. Their passage is an essential ingredient to an information policy of the 1980s.

The biggest challenges rest with the library and information community. These institutions are run by talented and dedicated people with strong bases in their communities. They have contributed much, and they can do even more to meet people's needs in coping with the problems we face in the '80s. I believe we have viewed libraries too narrowly. The needs of the public who must cope with our increasingly complex society can only be met by libraries actively providing access to the great variety of information they have. Libraries can provide information to individuals about jobs and education opportunities; information to families about social services and energy; and consumer information to small business on marketing and technological innovation. Americans must be able to obtain this information in convenient, accessible, community institutions like the library. To survive as community institutions, libraries must be strengthened and the public made more aware of their potential.

We expect that the libraries will help to teach people the value of energy conservation and the ways to accomplish it; help the American people protect themselves from inflation by informed purchasing; help them to see that we live in an interrelated world which requires both America's strength but also American patience and American understanding; and, help them most of all to learn that we have to look at the world as it is and not as we remembered it 25 years ago. I have every confidence that you will meet these challenges as you have others in the past. Libraries will continue to be a critical ingredient in building a stronger, a more vibrant, a more informed America that we all hope for.

JIMMY CARTER

THE WHITE HOUSE,
September 26, 1980.