Preface

Welcome to ADL '96 and the Library of Congress. This third Forum on Research and Technology Advances in Digital Libraries truly is an international event with cooperating institutions, program committee members, and presenters from North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. This year's expanded program reflects such participation and we hope to contribute to making the benefits of digital libraries more widespread across the globe. We are especially pleased to have as our host the Honorable James Billington, the Librarian of Congress.

The program committee met on January 19, 1996, at the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center to develop the final program, and we are excited about the range and depth of ideas being presented.

Our speakers represent the varied impacts of academia, government, and industry on digital libraries. The banquet speaker is U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey, D-Nebraska. Keynote speakers include John Gage, Director of the Science Office at Sun Microsystems; Michael Lesk, Chief Scientist at Bellcore; Donald Lindberg, Director of the National Library of Medicine; and Harold McDonald, Director of the NASA/Ames Research Center. The invited speakers are Brian Kahn, professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Andrew Magpantay, Director, Office for Information Technology Policy, American Library Association; Rubens Medina, Law Librarian at the Library of Congress; and Paul Schneck, Director of Information Systems and Mitretek Fellow at Mitretek Systems, Inc.

Over 60 papers were submitted for consideration by referees, with the program committee making final selections for presentation. The 13 accepted papers sample the breadth of digital library technologies, with emphases on information retrieval, medical applications, and access issues.

As electronic networks cut across an increasing number of national boundaries, forum discussions focus on the roles of global digital libraries in medicine, environmental monitoring, law, and electronic commerce. Additional sessions consider education, museums, and publishing. Facilitated by Internet access, exhibits will demonstrate commercially available technologies as well as university research undertaken to develop more advanced capabilities.

The general co-chairs and program chair are grateful for the substantial efforts of the other chairs, members of the program and steering committees, and referees. We extend particular thanks to the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, the National Library of Medicine, the IEEE Computer Society, and the Library of Congress for sponsoring ADL '96. The National Institute of Standards and Technology and several U.S. and
international universities are cooperating institutions. Corporate support is being given by leading computing, communications, and aerospace firms.

Thank you for participating in ADL '96. We trust that it will be an enjoyable and beneficial experience for you and look forward to hearing your ideas for ADL '97, to be held next May in the Washington, DC, area. Professor Al Aho of Columbia University will be serving as the program chair and welcomes your contributions.

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