

ROBERT S. WILLARD is a government and industry executive with experience in both market management and information policy advocacy and with a comprehensive knowledge of the application of information technology to public needs. Currently trying out retirement, he served until recently as Strategic Marketing Officer for the Government Printing Office and part-time marketing V.P. for a small legal publishing company.

In 1994, President Clinton appointed Willard to a five-year term on the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), an independent Federal agency whose part-time Members advise the President and Congress on the information needs of the American public. Mr. Willard resigned from the Commission when he was selected in April 1998 by his fellow Commissioners to serve as fulltime Executive Director of NCLIS which he did until 2004. Mr. Willard has served as Vice President for Government Relations, Lawyers Cooperative Publishing; Director, Government Marketing for Mead Data Central, Inc. (an electronic publisher now named LexisNexis); and Vice President, Government Relations of the Information Industry Association. In 1977, he established and directed the Washington office of the Data Processing Management Association. Earlier, he was a congressional staff member, an educational fund raiser, and a decorated Army officer in the Corps of Engineers with service in Korea, Vietnam, and the Pentagon. He received a bachelor's degree in international relations from Georgetown University and a master's degree in operations research and systems analysis from The George Washington University.

Mr. Willard is a long-time collector of books and other material about Abraham Lincoln, and has advised agencies involved in digitization of Lincoln material. He serves on the Boards of both the Abraham Lincoln Association (where he is a vice president) and the Abraham Lincoln Institute (of which he was president for two years), is treasurer of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia, and is a member or supporter of numerous other local and national groups concerned with the legacy of Abraham Lincoln. In 2005, Willard travelled the Lincoln trail from the birthplace in Hodgenville, Kentucky through southwestern Indiana to Lincoln's tomb in Springfield, Illinois; in four weeks, he covered 1,000 miles including 200 miles on foot.

December, 2008