

Library of Congress
First Lady Remarks

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Mike O'May
called
Ellen - 2nd paragraph
changed to read

"President Jeppesen
made his books
available "

Dr. B. Minton

became
w/ the devotion & the
generosity of the
Madison Council
+ the friends in
this room, millions
Americans more
are connected
to the
Lib. & Congress

- I feel privileged to be able to host a reception here at the White House honoring the world's greatest library. The library and the White House share much in common. Not only will they both turn 200 in the year 2000, they also represent to the world the ideals of liberty, freedom and justice.
- Unlike the White House, the first national library was completely destroyed in the War of 1812. Fortunately, President Jefferson deeded his books to a young nation, enabling us to start a new national library.
- President Jefferson understood that democracy depends on communication, on the free-flow of information. "He who receives an idea from me," he wrote; "receives instruction himself without lessening mine; as he who lights his taper at mine receives light without darkening me."
- We have come together because we believe this library -- all libraries -- have the power to spread the light Jefferson spoke of across our land.
- Libraries connect us to our past -- to the entire body of human thought and knowledge. Because of this, it is not accidental that the themes of the Library's bicentennial and the direction of the White House Millennium Program echo and harmonize with each other. We are pleased to be able to cooperate on ways to honor the past and imagine the future.
- The Library of Congress yesterday announced a series of important and imaginative programs to mark its bicentennial. Among these is the 'Gifts to the Nation' program. Under this initiative the Madison Council and friends of the library will see to it that ever-more of the Library of Congress's collection is made available to libraries around the country via the ^{nat'l dig. library} Internet. Similarly, the White House Millennium Program will be asking all Americans to give a gift to the future, to help preserve and carry with us our knowledge, culture and values into the next century. I look to you and your institution to involve other libraries and readers all over America and to reach students and teachers ~~through through the National Digital Library.~~ w/ the treasure of history & science
- Thank you for all you have done and all you will continue to do.