

## **Meeting Minutes/Summary**

### **February 2009 Members Council Meeting**

**Group Name:**           OCLC Research          

**Prepared and submitted by:**           Timothy J. Dickey            
Have the minutes been reviewed by the group chair? Yes  No

Meeting minutes should be concise (not exceed two pages), summarize major discussion points, and be reviewed and approved by the group chair. **Recorders, please email your meeting minutes to Bunny Gunderson (gundersb@oclc.org) by the close of business on Wednesday, February 25.**

#### **Attending:**

Shirley Baker, Chew Leng Beh, Raymond Berard, Bob Bolander, Michael Butler, Eric Childress, Cynthia Czesak, Lorcan Dempsey, Barbara Dewey, Timothy J. Dickey, Jackie Dooley, Vic Elliott, Robin Green, Don Hamparian, Lorraine Haricombe, Irene Hoffman, Jieh Hsiang, Graham Jefcoate, Jay Jordan, Alan Knox, Michael LaCroix, Jason Lee, Karen Lequay, Lynn McDonald, Jim Michalko, Cathy Norton, Loretta Parham, Anne Prestamo, Suzanne Ryder, Jane Ryland, Gregg Silvis, Pamela Snelson, Sheryl Taylor, Roy Tennant, Gwenda Thomas, Elsie Weatherington, Patrick Wilkinson, Betsy Wilson, Catherine Wilt

#### **Meeting Minutes/Summary:**

The meeting was called to order at 11:25am, with members present via webcast as well as in person. Roy Tennant of OCLC Research was introduced, and he presented an introduction to APIs (application programming interfaces). He explained that in more traditional interfaces, there are layers for data, application, and presentation; an API adds an XML layer as an abstraction, which allows customized presentation. Thus, libraries can use API services to “mash up” data from different sources, and present them in customized ways. Dr. Tennant offered an overview of a number of ways OCLC is moving forward in this area:

- OCLC Web Services provide a series of standards-heavy machine-to-machine protocols for handling web-based requests for XML data
- OCLC Grid Services expose data (such as MARC records) and services in machine-readable form
  - They promote internal efficiencies, provide added value to members, and mobilize the community to advise OCLC on future developments
  - Examples of OCLC Grid Services include identifier services such as xISBN, registry services such as the WorldCat Institution Registry, and authentication services
- The WorldCat Search API searches WorldCat with familiar protocols, and returns XML data (possibly re-formatted in standard citation formats)
  - Examples of Search API uses include a URI evaluator which tests API requests, an application which inserts part of a WorldCat.org book page in another website, a WorldCat search service in Facebook, a WordPress widget for WorldCat links in a blog, and an application within YUFind at Yale University to find “other local copies” of an item
  - All examples both enhance the local system, and derive more value from WorldCat
- The WorldCat Developers’ Network supports the community through a Wiki, a blog, lists, pilots, and special events such as the recent WorldCat “hackathon”
- Future plans include an EZProxy pilot, service updates, more hackathons, and a Data Services bundle (including validation services, terminologies, and crosswalks for library data)

The answers to questions and discussion, both during and after the presentation (and both live and via chat), included

- Specifying that *library* developers had been invited to join the Network, which will later be open to anyone
- OCLC is developing a pricing model for the WorldCat API
- There are terms and conditions for the re-use of data, similar to those for the Amazon.com API
- OCLC is tracking the use of these services by logs and individual feedback
- The cooperative gains from these developments by the opportunity to interact directly with our clientele, finding out how they use data and services, and how they think about services.

Several delegates expressed interest in these services, and asked OCLC to continue to advertise them better. The chair complimented delegates, and OCLC, for a beneficial experiment in virtual meetings. The chair also asked the delegates to carefully consider how to keep up with OCLC Research within the new governance structure, at both the regional and global levels. The conferencing system ended the meeting at 12:10pm.