

**OCLC Members Council 2008-2009 Annual Plan**  
**Prepared by Loretta Parham, President, Members Council**

***Embracing the Differences:***  
**Greater Understanding, Modeling, and Celebrating the Global Cooperative**

**Context for the Year:**

OCLC has adopted a new governance structure designed to extend participation in the cooperative to an increasing number of libraries and cultural heritage institutions around the world.

On May 20, 2008 the OCLC Members Council approved changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Code of Regulations that had been recommended by the Board of Trustees. The changes will transform the current Members Council into a Global Council that connects with Regional Councils around the world.

The new Global Council will replace the Members Council in a transition that is expected to take 12-18 months and will be coordinated by the 2008-2009 Members Council Executive Committee and the OCLC Board of Trustees Transition Committee.

**Introduction:**

The annual plan is the guide by which the Members Council determines its programs and activities for the year. Prepared at the beginning of each Council year, the plan includes proposed ideas and activities for each meeting. While strategic in nature, the plan is **flexible and subject to change** as issues arise during the year. It is coordinated with OCLC activities and covers critical issues for libraries and membership of the Global Cooperative. The OCLC Members Council President and Executive Committee prepare this document to communicate the plans to delegates, alternates, the OCLC Board of Trustees, management and staff, network and service center staff, and OCLC Members.

The new Global Council, along with the Board of Trustees, will continue to be one of the two governance bodies representing the Membership of the OCLC global, nonprofit, library cooperative. The Global Council will support OCLC's mission of furthering cost-effective access to worldwide information by serving as a key strategic discussion forum and the major communications link among Members, networks, and OCLC. By providing an open channel for recommendations and questions from delegates, approving changes in the Code of Regulations, and electing six Members of the Board of Trustees, the new Global Council helps shape the future direction of OCLC and libraries throughout the world.

## **The Year:**

A year like none other in the history of the OCLC Cooperative, 2008/09 is a year of change - a year where we are trying new models. It is different. The manner in which the member delegates, trustees, staff, and network and service centers participate may be altered. However, the organizational mission of "Connecting people to knowledge through library cooperation," and the global mission of the membership "to improve access to the world's information" has not changed. As we employ and enjoy the diversity of opinion, of experience and of environment within the growing cooperative, we choose to embrace these differences and use them to construct a more connected and brighter tomorrow for the world of information providers and seekers.

## **Meeting Topics:**

October: Embracing the Differences *And* Greater Understanding of Global Priorities

February: Embracing the Differences *And* Modeling the Expectation

May: Embracing the Differences *And* Celebrating the Past, Present and Future

## **Meeting Plans and Goals**

### **October 19-21, 2008**

#### **Embracing the Differences *And* Greater Understanding of Global Priorities**

Goal: To further expand the awareness of delegates and staff about the opportunities and barriers confronting the non-U.S. global information community.

The expertise of non-U.S. librarians, information specialists and cultural heritage administrators will be called upon to consider the top priorities for selected global communities for the next decade. Our speakers and the subsequent delegate conversations will explore those priorities and offer recommendations for strategic influence by the collaborative.

#### **Members Council Business:**

- **Orientation of New Delegates**
- **Elect Delegate to fill vacancy on OCLC Board of Trustees**
- **Transition Report**

**February 9 - 11, 2009**

**Embracing the Differences *And* Modeling the Expectation**

Goal: To launch and learn via a virtual meeting of the Members Council about collaborative products and services and the status of transition planning.

Council will model the behavior that is practiced by our information seeking community through the delivery and introduction of best practices for a virtual meeting of the delegation. This activity will help to shape future planning and communications for effective regional council meetings and Annual Global Council Meeting(s). The virtual meeting will also provide a unique platform for an exchange of information and advice about new products and services.

**Members Council Business:**

- **OCLC Board of Trustees Update**
- **Transition Update**

**May 17-19, 2009**

**Embracing the Differences *And* Celebrating the Past, Present and Future**

Goal: To recognize and celebrate the history, accomplishments, heroes and heroines of the “Members Council” from origin to transition.

Concluding many months of governance transition planning, we will stop and take stock of the contributions from the past that have brought the cooperative to where it is today. We will use this time, as well, to understand the particulars of the transition planning and toast the new (or the progress toward the new). Members Council, then known as the OCLC Users Council, was first convened in June 1978. The 31 successful years of a “Members Council” will be documented and celebrated.

**Members Council Business:**

- **Select Nominees for the Executive Committee Election**
- **Elect Executive Committee**
- **Farewell to departing delegates**
- **Transition: Going Forward**