We are a worldwide library cooperative, owned, governed and sustained by members since 1967. Our public purpose is a statement of commitment to each other—that we will work together to improve access to the information held in libraries around the globe, and find ways to reduce costs for libraries through collaboration.
The voice of OCLC members in the Americas

OCLC members in the Americas can actively participate in the cooperative via the Americas Regional Council, one of three regional councils within OCLC’s governance structure designed to facilitate discussions and gather input. The Council provides members a way to offer feedback on OCLC services and policies through OCLC’s Global Council, and help shape the future direction of the cooperative.

All interested individuals from Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the United States are invited to participate in Americas Regional Council meetings. These meetings facilitate connections and conversations among members throughout the region and back to OCLC.

OCLC member institutions in the Americas can elect professional staff or board members from their institutions to one-year terms on the Americas Regional Council Executive Committee, and to three-year terms on the Global Council as Member Delegates. Any member can raise issues for discussion or resolutions to vote.

For more information, please visit: www.oclc.org/councils/.

Get involved: your participation is an important benefit of membership

There are many rewarding ways to get involved in the OCLC cooperative. Here are a few examples of opportunities.

- Nominate yourself or a colleague for a position on the Americas Regional Council or Global Council.
- Attend OCLC’s thought leadership sessions at conferences: www.oclc.org/news/events/.
- Share your story with the world—contribute an article to one of many OCLC publications, like NextSpace, OCLC Abstracts and news releases.
- Join the conversation at Americas Regional Council meetings.
Americas Regional Council members’ meetings: Connect. Speak up. Lead.

The Americas Regional Council holds at least one members’ meeting annually to keep members current on issues of vital and immediate interest to the OCLC cooperative, and may also schedule additional meetings as important topics arise.

All members will be able to participate in discussions, advance ideas and influence the direction of the cooperative. Whether you attend these meetings to connect with peers, provide input or take a leadership role by serving on a committee within the Americas Regional Council or Global Council, your contribution is important.

Regional Council meetings are open to library staff regardless of OCLC membership status and give individuals a voice in the OCLC cooperative. Global Council meetings are open to delegates elected by OCLC members. When required, official voting is at the institution level: one vote per institution.

The ARC Ambassador Program and Communications Frameworks

The health of our cooperative depends on open and dynamic communications. Since the ARC Communications Committee was established, along with the ARC Ambassador Program in 2010, member volunteers have facilitated discussions throughout the OCLC cooperative. ARC Ambassadors engage members in their geographic regions and through their affinity groups. Their goal is to provide meaningful opportunities for librarians to discuss issues that matter to them and to contribute ideas to the further development of OCLC.

OCLC Ambassadors report on OCLC activities on a regular basis and solicit opinions from members. They distribute information that comes out of member meetings and relay questions and feedback to the ARC Executive Committee, Global Council and OCLC management. If you are interested in volunteering as an Ambassador, please send an e-mail to regionalcouncil.americas@oclc.org.
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Directory of OCLC Global Council Member Delegates:  
www.oclc.org/global-council-directory.en.html