



The new OCLC

Back in October, we announced that OCLC and OCLC PICA were uniting under the OCLC name to form a single global enterprise. And from 3rd December, we are pleased to confirm that the process of alignment has been concluded. OCLC, the world's largest library service and research organisation now operates globally with three regional divisions, OCLC Americas, OCLC Europe, Middle East and Africa and OCLC Asia-Pacific.

Rein van Charldorp, Managing Director of OCLC Europe, Middle East and Africa said, "We represent today a unified global organisation with a wealth of regional knowledge and expertise used to develop world-class products and services." Customers will continue to experience the same high levels of service and personal attention that come from an organisation that has offices in ten countries, including five in Europe. And customers can also work with a global enterprise which has scaled its services to a point where optimal value can be achieved.



The whole organisation now also operates under a new visual identity. The new OCLC brand was officially launched at the beginning of December. It was timed to coincide with the Online Information Show in London, one of the biggest events in the international library calendar.

In 2008, you will start to experience a variety of new communications. First of all, we will be launching a new corporate website, with regional sites in four European languages. And of course, as you are already starting to see, there will be some changes to our bi-monthly customer newsletter. The renamed OCLC eNews will continue to serve our customers in Europe, Middle East and Africa with articles informing you of the latest product developments, events, and of course any news that particularly relates to our region.

OLIB product update

OCLC has added a new Web-based staff interface to its leading library management system OLIB. The new staff interface, OLIB Web, delivers an effective working environment for library staff irrespective of their location: within the library, at a remote site, indeed, from anywhere. OLIB Web is hosted on a single server, without the need for more software on the PC, making it ideally suited to both multi-site and single-site deployments. Upgrades need only be carried out in one place. Alternatively, OCLC offers a hosted solution that manages libraries' servers and related infrastructure, allowing libraries to concentrate on serving their users. For more information email uk@oclc.org.

New appointments

Andrew Pace will join the OCLC staff as Executive Director, Networked Library Services, where he will guide the future development of network level services for libraries. His appointment is effective January 7, 2008. Mr. Pace spent the last nine years at North Carolina State University Libraries, since 2001 as Head of Information Technology.



The Programs and Research division of OCLC is opening an office at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, and has appointed John MacColl as the representative of RLG Programs to better serve the needs of research libraries and other cultural heritage institutions in the United Kingdom, Ireland and the rest of Europe.

"Opening this OCLC office at St Andrews is an important milestone in our work with RLG Partners in Europe," said James Michalko, OCLC Vice President, RLG Programs. "We value the relationships we've built with colleague institutions over the past 15 years, and we now look forward to more structured and focused joint activities ahead. We're delighted that John MacColl will represent our interests and engage with Partners and allied organisations on our behalf."

John MacColl joined RLG Programs and St Andrews in November, directly from his previous post as Head of the Digital Library at Edinburgh University Library.



Larry Alford, Dean of University Libraries, Temple University, has been named Chair of

WHELF launches eBook service

The Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum (WHELF) launched their new eBook service on Thursday December 6th at The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. Enabled by OCLC's NetLibrary eBook solution, this service assists WHELF in providing access to a growing collection of over 500 key eBook titles, covering a broad range of subjects, to 85,000 Welsh Higher Education students and National Library users.

Attendees from WHELF member libraries and other invited representatives from the UK library community were welcomed by Andrew Green, Librarian - The National Library of Wales and Chair of WHELF. Presentations included an insight into the background of the new eBook project and the past work carried out by WHELF from Jeremy Atkinson - Director of Learning and Corporate Support Services at the University of Glamorgan. Paul Riley - Head of UWIC Library Division presented on the specifics of the NetLibrary e-Book project and Robin Murray, VP Global Product Management, OCLC gave a strategic view of the online environment and stressed the need for libraries to work together to build web-scale. Paul Riley said: "This is an excellent example of how collaborative purchasing can enhance students' learning and we will continue to work with NetLibrary on developing the collection."



From left: Jeremy Atkinson, Robin Murray, Scott Wasinger, Paul Riley.

Scott Wasinger, Managing Director, Business Development, NetLibrary, officially launched the service. Scott said "It is my pleasure to officially launch WHELF's eBook service and welcome them to join over 100 academic, public and special libraries in the UK, already providing NetLibrary's eContent services to their users. This agreement serves to strengthen the existing relationship between the WHELF institutions and we look forward to working together, building on this collection in the future."

Waterland Public Library fields 3 millionth question on QuestionPoint

At 5:26 p.m. local time November 29, a user of Bibliotheek Waterland, the public library in and around Purmerend, the Netherlands, logged on to the Al@din reference service and asked the question: "What is the distribution of market share for automobiles in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and the UK?" It was the 3 millionth question logged on QuestionPoint, the virtual reference desk developed by OCLC and the Library of Congress and the system that hosts the Netherlands' Al@din service. The question was forwarded to and answered by the Openbare Bibliotheek Groningen.

Al@din is one of eight groups and more than 100 libraries worldwide that are locally branding a customized version of QuestionPoint, links 230 public libraries in the Netherlands and is available to any library user in the country through the Netherlands Public Library Association Web site. Al@din can answer questions locally and nationally or seamlessly refer them to the QuestionPoint network, which consists of more than 1,700 libraries in 23 countries. Learn more about QuestionPoint.

eNews

Newsletter for Europe,
Middle East & Africa

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Events

- 11-16 January 2008
ALA Midwinter,
Philadelphia
- 23-25 January 2008
NUKAT Conference,
Warsaw

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OCLC EMEA
Schipholweg 99
2316 XA Leiden
Netherlands
T +31-(0)71-524 65 00

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OCLC Annual Report available



The OCLC Annual Report 2007 is now available and can be downloaded from the [OCLC Website](#) as a PDF.

Library leaders to extend Virtual International Authority File

OCLC, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek and the Library of Congress have signed a memorandum of

the OCLC Board of Trustees. Mr. Alford was elected to the OCLC Board of Trustees in May 2002 by the OCLC Members Council, the 71-delegate discussion forum and communications link between member libraries, regional networks and other partners, and OCLC management. Mr. Alford was Members Council President for the 2000/2001 session. Mr. Alford was named Dean of University Libraries at Temple University in 2005. Prior to joining the Temple Libraries, he worked in a variety of positions in the libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill over a 30 year period.

The OCLC Symposium

The first European OCLC Symposium was held at the Online Information Show at Kensington Olympia on 5th December 2007. The event titled 'Who's Watching Your Space' was an exploration of the digital phenomenon of social networking sites, like Facebook and MySpace. It was triggered by the publication of the latest in a series of OCLC Membership Reports "'Sharing, Privacy and Trust in our Networked World".'



From left: Cathy de Rosa, Matt Brown, John Naughton.

The line up included John Naughton, Professor of the Public Understanding of Technology at the Open University and journalist for the *Observer*, Matt Brown, Editor of *Nature Network* and blogger, Cathy de Rosa, Global Vice President of Marketing for OCLC, and principal contributor to the report. The event is now available to view entirely [here](#). Copies of the report are available to [download](#) as a PDF.

understanding to extend and enhance the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF), a project which virtually combines multiple name authority files into a single name authority service.

Building on a previous proof-of-concept research project by OCLC, the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (the German national library) and the Library of Congress, the new agreement adds the Bibliothèque nationale de France (the French national library) as a principal partner in VIAF and will lead to the inclusion of content from name authority files maintained by the Bibliothèque nationale de France. The French name authority records will be added to the existing VIAF files built from authority data from the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek and the Library of Congress. VIAF's matching routines were developed by OCLC Research.

The long-term goal of the VIAF project is to include authoritative names from many libraries into a global service that will be freely available via the Web to users worldwide. The addition of content from Bibliothèque nationale de France represents the initial step in expanding the scope of VIAF. The newly signed agreement also provides a framework for adding more authority files from other agencies over time.

D-Lib Magazine features CONTENTdm

The September/October 2007 issue of the D-Lib Magazine informed its readers about the digital collection that the University of Washington manages with CONTENTdm. CONTENTdm recently became available in version 4.3 with a number of enhanced features, and is also used in about twenty European libraries. The University of Washington Libraries has been building its Digital Collections since 1996, when the Libraries began digitizing materials in Special Collections. Read the whole article [here](#).