



OCLC Members Council 2007/2008 Annual Plan *Prepared by Sandy Yee, President, Members Council*

Moving Forward with New Understanding: Our OCLC Collaborative, Its Services and Each Other

I. Introduction

The Members Council, along with the Board of Trustees, is one of the two governance bodies representing the Membership of the OCLC global, nonprofit, library cooperative. Members Council supports 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, Members Council helps shape the future direction of OCLC and libraries.

The annual plan is the guide by which 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.

II. 2007/2008 Meeting Topics

October: Our Governance Structure — where do we go from here?

February: New or Future services:
Informed by members' needs and wildest dreams

May: Learning From Our Members:
Enhancing understanding of each other and our cooperative

III. Background

Members Council Presidents Kratz, Farrell and Ingles have provided Council an excellent path to our discussions in 2007/2008. "Moving Beyond Our Comfort Zones" challenged us to look at new services and content, particularly E-content. "Partnerships: Building and Expanding the Cooperative" asked us to look beyond the founding membership to rural and small libraries and members outside of North America, and to recognize the value they bring to the cooperative. President Ingles challenged us to re-affirm our values or to develop new ones and to move from organizational dissonance to a new harmony. We are ready to move forward and to embrace the next chapter in OCLC's continuing legacy.

Following the December 2000 recommendations of the Advisory Council on Governance, the OCLC Board of Trustees has commissioned a new governance study to ensure that OCLC can successfully meet current and emerging needs of libraries and other cultural heritage organizations across the world. Given the organizational dissonance that we have experienced over the past several years, we welcome the opportunity to work with the Board of Trustees to reach a new harmony, to come to a new understanding, and to position ourselves to provide OCLC with our best thinking on new products and services as well as the best mechanism for identifying and delivering our ideas and recommendations.

IV. Goals

Members Council delegates will strive to achieve the following goals during 2007-2008:

- Understand new possibilities and opportunities for governance of the cooperative and to provide input to the Board of Trustees:
- Explore innovative ideas for new services based on information provided by the Task Force on E-book Integration, OCLC studies and other information:
- Familiarize ourselves with opportunities that global members and cultural heritage institutions bring to the collaborative for the benefit of all members.

V. Meeting Plans

October 21 - 23, 2007

Theme: An innovative look at our governance structure: where do we go from here?

We will have an opportunity to review the work done by the OCLC Board Committee on Governance and to provide our input to their deliberations. We will also hear from a speaker who will inspire us to look beyond our current services and to envision new opportunities. Stephen Abram, Vice President for Innovation at SirsiDynix will share some of his best thinking on the future of libraries.

Members Council Business:

- Orientation for new member delegates
- Update on OCLC activities since May 2007
- Prepare for Board election in May 2008
- OCLC Board of Trustees update
- Standing Joint Committee report
- Follow up review of E-Book Task Force report

February 10 - 12, 2008

Theme: An innovative look at new or future services, informed by an understanding of research done by members and others, and by envisioning our wildest dreams of new possibilities.

Carol Mandel, University Librarian at New York University will share information learned from a year long study on what faculty and graduate students report they need for research and teaching. We will discuss how this information can help inform us and OCLC in the development and deployment of products and services. During this meeting we will push the envelope to think about services beyond our wildest dreams. We will think about the opportunities provided by mobile technology, social networking, virtual life, open source integrated library systems, and user created content. The Sunday evening program and dinner will take place at the Ohio Historical Society, bringing past and future together in a unique setting.

Members Council Business:

- OCLC Board of Trustees Update
- Governance Study consideration and action
- RONDAC update

May 18 - 20, 2008

Theme: Moving forward with a new understanding of each other—the entire cooperative—with specific attention to learning from our RLG members and our global members and partners.

Speakers from a cultural heritage institution, now members because of the RLG merger, will help us understand how we all benefit from each other's strengths. Our global partner members are bringing even more innovative ideas and information to the collaborative. We want to understand how we all fit together in one cooperative.

Members Council Business:

- Selection of OCLC Members Council Executive Committee candidates
- Election of OCLC Members Council Executive Committee
- Election of OCLC Board of Trustees representatives
- Governance study follow up action if needed