

Members Council February 2003
Library Group
Discussion Summary Report

Name of Group Large Research Libraries I

Recorder Ed O'Neill

1. Summary of topics & discussions

Use of records: There was considerable discussion regarding the unauthorized use of records with most of the discussion focusing on records accessed by non-members via z39.50. There was general recognition that a small leakage of records was inevitable and was not worth worrying about but that systematic usage was potentially a serious problem. Distribution of records with sets of special materials by member libraries was view as legitimate as was other reuse of records that was none with the knowledge and cooperation of the member. It was felt that here was need to assess the extent of the problem including identifying the types and location of libraries involved. As an initial response, peer pressure should be used to discourage unauthorized use and members should not permit their names to be included in lists identifying sources of downloadable records. The possibility that a 'Napster' type model for record sharing may have some advantages over the centralized OCLC model.

Other topics: The impact of consortium was discussed, as was differential pricing.

2. List **3-4 significant issues** that the group wants to communicate to Members Council and OCLC.

- Unauthorized use of records,
- Assessment of extent of unauthorized use and the identification of libraries involved,
- Need for resolution by Members Council concerning the redistribution of records,
- Impact of consortium.

3. Remembering that OCLC's role is to be the leading global library cooperative, which of the issues in #2 are most urgent and why?

The need for an assessment of the extent of unauthorized use and the identification of the type and nationalities of the primary offenders. There seemed to be a great deal anecdotal evidence but very little reliable data. It is important to determine the magnitude of the problem before formulating a response. Limited leakage of records is unlikely to present a significant problem but extensive unauthorized use could pose a threat to the cooperative. Without a better understanding of which libraries are involved and why, it will be difficult to formulate an effective response.

4. Please indicate if the group feels that an issue or presentation should be presented to the full Council.

The group felt that the full Council should approve a resolution on inappropriate use of records. The resolution should clarify what is appropriate use. The resolution should include suggested actions members should take to minimize unauthorized use of their records.