

**Members Council February 2003**  
**Library Group**  
**Discussion Summary Report**

**Name of Group** Public Libraries

**Recorder** Maureen Finn

1. Summary of topics & discussions

- Reactions to "theft of records" issue
- Follow up to Cathy/Lorcan presentation; discussion of information trends for public libraries (embedded or different)
- OCLC's role in bringing forward end-user/statewide systems
  - New membership types
  - New packages of OCLC services
- Environmental scan for OCLC's use
  - Public libraries
  - Money
  - Opportunities (silver linings)

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

- OCLC should provide member libraries with verbiage they can take to their local system vendors to make the necessary changes to keep companies like BookWhere from accessing their OPACs. OCLC should also create an email message member libraries can use to send to BookWhere and other companies saying "Take me off your list."
- OCLC should investigate new pricing models to make CatExpress more affordable and eliminate expiration dates, at least for smaller libraries. This product is easy to use and a good way to get libraries to do the right thing. Attaching holdings is what makes the cooperative work.
- Budgets for public libraries have been cut drastically which will directly impact OCLC as we reduce purchases of materials, downsize cataloging and generally cut back on everything. Despite these overwhelming cuts, public library circulation is up, in some cases by more than 20%. Non-book circulation is high, with 85% of DVDs being out at any given time.
- Using the buying power of consortia can help libraries in tough economic times.

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?

- New pricing models to make all cataloging more affordable to all libraries.

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

Not at this time.