

**Members Council  
Global Librarianship Interest Group  
Discussion Report**

Day 1 Discussion Summary Report

**Present:** Hennie Viljoen, Presiding  
**Delegates:** Carol Bursik (FEDLINK); Rhoda Channing (SOLINET); James Estrada (NELINET); Charlene Hurt (SOLINET); Tom Kirk (INCOLSA); Dianne Man (OCLC Pica); James Simonis (NYLINK); Bob Seal (Amigos)  
**Guests:** Edward Barry and Barbara Gubbin (Board of Trustees)  
**Staff:** Muriel Hippeau; Janet Lees; George Needham  
**Recorder:** Nancy London

Mr. Viljoen opened the first meeting of the Global Librarianship Interest Group by laying out a plan for the two meetings. He suggested that the first meeting be devoted to setting out the top issues facing OCLC as it continues to grow internationally, and to setting priorities on those issues. The second meeting could then be used to discuss ways to address these issues productively. The group agreed to this approach.

After placing ten issues on the whiteboard in the meeting room, the group identified three of the issues as basic principles for OCLC to embrace in global librarianship, and seven as key issues to be addressed. The seven issues were then voted upon by the group to produce the following list.

**Basic Principles**

- Respecting international differences
- Assist in building new cooperatives
- Communication as backbone

**Significant Issues**

1. Continuation of transfer of technology, while mindful of local priorities/customs
  - Provide models for institutions in developing countries to study and apply as appropriate
  - Sustainability/availability of IT infrastructure
  - Recognize and embrace the role of national libraries in the cooperative
2. Partnering with international organizations
  - Involvement with World Summit on the Information Society (<http://www.itu.int/wsis/>)
  - OCLC presence and input to discussions
  - Recognize that international involvement provides mutual benefit for libraries in developing and developed countries alike. One example is the UNESCO databases
3. Training
  - Is this primarily a Network/Service Center issue?
  - Recognize different cultural approaches to training and how it is seen in relationship to the purchase of services
  - What is OCLC's role? The Task Force on OCLC's Role in Staff Development identified standards and use of OCLC products/services. Must be aware of the possibilities for inconsistency in training delivery
  - OCLC Consulting Services
    - a. Can be perceived as too OCLC centric
    - b. Focus on products already in place
    - c. Materials in multiple languages
    - d. Multiple formats; security

4. Future of WorldCat
  - How do we handle varying record formats?
  - Who owns records in WorldCat?
  - UNICODE
  - Variations in catalog rules
  - Digital preservation
  - OCLC's incorporation in US – vagaries of foreign policy
5. Assumption of Risk:
  - Terrorism
  - Insurance for delegates; especially international delegates
  - Illnesses/accidents
  - Trade/Customs laws
  - Shifting international relations
  - Copyright laws
  - Privacy laws
  - OCLC Pica – stop importing, start producing
6. Increased travel by faculty – how to provide access (Library ATM card)
  - Could there be a faculty database within the OCLC system?
7. Work with non-U.S., non-English database producers

### Day 2 Discussion Summary Report

**Present:** Hennie Viljoen, Presiding

**Delegates:** Carol Bursik (FEDLINK); Rhoda Channing (SOLINET); James Estrada (NELINET); Charlene Hurt (SOLINET); Tom Kirk (INCOLSA); Dianne Man (OCLC Pica); James Simonis (NYLINK); Bob Seal (Amigos)

**Guests:** William Crowe and Barbara Gubbin (Board of Trustees)

**Staff:** Jay Jordan; Janet Lees; George Needham; Rick Schwieterman; Rein Van Chaldorp

**Recorder:** Nancy London

Mr. Viljoen opened the meeting by thanking Nancy London and Sandy Burns for getting the summary of the first meeting circulated to the participants so quickly. He reviewed the basic principles and key issues, and began discussion of possible ways to address the issues.

### **Issue #1: Transfer of Technology**

- Can OCLC help with bandwidth issues? Increase purchasing power?
  - Partner with organizations addressing this – Open Society Institute, EIFL
  - Partner with institutions in communicating with national research/science organizations
  - PICA experience – meet regularly with IT directors. Regular technical directors conferences or updates?
  - Partner with “national libraries” or appropriate entity to identify and disseminate models that could be generalized to other locations. White paper, aggregate national library roles
  - Invite representative from, for example, the European national libraries group or the African academic librarians group to address Members Council
  - OCLC could commission a paper on diverse roles of national libraries
  - Collect the published (print or online) reports of national libraries and disseminate

- Sustainability
  - “Soft money” issues; much work is done on grant funding that does not become permanent
  - When do we let go and stop sustaining outdated projects.
  - On the other hand, how do we know when to scale up, to do more cooperation?
  - Strategic education, helping librarians think strategically in their relationships
  - Countries in transition may leapfrog generations of technology
  - Standards for connectivity

### **Issue #2: Partnering**

- World summit on information society. OCLC Role?
- IFLA – closer relationships with OCLC and with its members
- Who are the key potential partners? Could OCLC provide a scan of the possibilities
- What alliances are already in place? OCLC, other international groups.
- Services to universities from US/Canada that are building campuses in other countries (not just "study abroad" programs for US students, but branch campuses for students from these countries)
- Use AMIGOS and SOLINET as models for encouraging cross-institutional, geographic cooperation

### **Issue #3: Training**

- Partnering could be useful here
- Many standard workshops could be delivered locally with local facilitator/Placeware
- OCLC as Clearinghouse concept, as recommended by Task Force on OCLC's Role in Staff Development
- Two categories of training relevant to this discussion are needed – OCLC and other skills
- Capture courses on video; distribute both virtually and via disk or tape – FEDLINK model

The group voted to determine the top issues. The three issues to be forwarded to the Strategic Leadership Team are:

- 1. Partnering**
- 2. White paper on information leaders internationally**
- 3. Modeling**

The group also recommends to the Members Council Executive Committee that it invite international speakers to address the Council on issues relating to the state of libraries in their regions.