

Members Council May 2003

Library Group Report

Government & Special Libraries Group

Larry Olszewski, Recorder

Attending: Carol Bursik, Chair, Susan Fifer Canby, Eleanor Frierson

OCLC: Linda Arnold, Susan Barclay, Thomas Shaughnessy, OCLC Board of Trustees

How can Members Council most productively provide OCLC with future environmental trends for the various types of libraries?

- Identify 3-4 most valuable and useful techniques to gather input
 1. Members Council
 - Needs to capture and share trends
 - Information needs to circle back to members
 2. Regional Networks
 - They are closer to the special library community and to its concerns
 - Can be used to obtain new members
 3. Standards committees
 - Midpoint between development and implementation
 4. Visits (personal interaction, videoconferencing)
- Identify other means to gather feedback on products/services
 1. Sponsor meetings on different topics – reference, resource sharing, cataloging and talk about the future - held in different regions
 2. Use third party agents to listen at meetings, conferences, and libraries
 3. Review logs of support calls (questions, problems, etc.)
 4. Assume broader presence at national conferences (MLA, SLA, AALL) through committee work and speaking
 5. Survey who on MC is involved with a museum in their area
- How can the SLT written responses be improved?
 1. Identify the group/s that posed the question
 2. Provide more specific, less generic answers
 3. Encourage contributions from several SLT members, not necessarily a one-to-one relationship of SLT member to issue
- How can Members Council enhance the effectiveness of interest and library groups?
 1. Reinforce and strengthen the process
 2. Share "What's on Your Mind" results

What are the key trends affecting libraries on a national, regional and local level?

- What do the terms regional and local environment mean to your group?
 - National vs international is more descriptive
 - Seen in an institutional context rather than a geographical one
- Define the top 3-4 most important influences on your library's operations.
 1. The President's Management Agenda (as in President George Bush)
 2. Concern with security (physical and computer) that becomes obstructive to information transfer
 3. Pressure to reduce physical space and staff
 4. Move to digitization
- What will be the impact of those top influences in your library's relationship with OCLC?

Ways to cut costs

 1. Ways to generate revenues
 2. Creating partnerships
 3. Articulate the value of the library to the organization

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

1. Jay Jordan should meet with Mark Forman, Associate Director for Information Technology and Electronic Government, U.S. Office of Management and Budget to discuss how IT should partner with OCLC to promote role libraries play in national infrastructure. Librarians do not have a seat on the CIO Council of the federal government and cannot contribute to the discussion of metadata and databases. Opportunity for OCLC to be seen at federal level and perhaps grants.
2. Investigate how the National Library of Medicine raised its profile and changes its image with its constituents (e.g. integrating with partners, reaching out to consumers)