

Members Council May 2003 Library Group Minutes

Name of Group: **Large Research Libraries II**

Leader: Sue Phillips

Recorder: Lori Saviers

Members Present: Larry Alford (OCLC Board of Trustees), Rosann Bazirjian, Carol Diedrichs, Magda El-Serbini, Ernie Ingels, , Sue Phillips, Sandy Yee
OCLC staff: Gary Houk, Bill Carney, Lori Saviers

Communications:

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

- The group was discouraged by the low level of attendance at this session. They suggested that it would make more sense (and would reduce confusion) to combine the LRL "I" and LRL "II" groups – even if that group were slightly larger than other groups. They also felt that a larger group would do a better job of replacing the Research Libraries Advisory Committee.
- It was noted that OCLC tends to respond better to issues raised by the Members Council vs. the Advisory Committees or individual institutions.
- A concern was expressed that the Members Council Type of Library Groups might not provide enough representation from certain library types (small publics, schools, specials, etc.). A possible suggestion to address this was bringing in "observers" to Members Council from under-represented segments.
- Overall, the delegates felt that there is room for improvement in delegate reporting to the membership.
- Comments on the SLT responses to Members Council concerns:
 - Some responses did not seem in-depth enough - the group concluded that the issues were not all of equal weight or complexity, and that the answers should have the appropriate amount of content to address the issue. Some issues could have up to a page for the response.
 - The responses do not provide the delegates with a vehicle they can use to communication to the membership. A summary of the issues/responses in a format that the delegates could pass along to the members they represent would be valuable.
 - It was noted that reporting back to the membership varies from network to network. The members are not interested in the full minutes of the Members Council. It was suggested that a high-level 1-2 page summary plus any resolutions from each MC meeting could be sent to the delegates, which they could adapt to their particular membership for distribution. This would allow for communication directly from the delegates to their constituents, but assure that the same message would be communicated.
 - If the responses state that solutions are in progress or are being worked on, OCLC management should provide updates.
 - Organize the responses by **topic**, not by the person who was responsible for the answer.
- The new oclc.org Web site will include an area for "community". Gary Houk commented that he thought this area might include a place for members to "communicate with your members council delegate". This was investigated subsequent to the meeting and while it is one suggestion for the community pages of the new Web site, it will not be a part of the initial implementation.

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

- At all levels: national, regional, and local – budgets are the biggest issue
- It was noted that some libraries are applying budget cuts equally across all budget items, including OCLC; regardless of whether that is the most efficient solution.
 - Creation of templates to determine cost position of various activities would be helpful for libraries attempting to balance their budgets. More tools to provide cost analysis are needed.
 - It was thought that most libraries would not have the resources now to participate in detailed time reporting studies to develop this data – could possibly provide "quick facts" information if there were a project to collect the data.

- Many cuts have already been made in technical services staff – public service areas need to be examined in the same way. There is a need to better understand how to deploy/use reference staff.
- The “shortage of catalogers”.
 - A suggestion was made that OCLC study staffing trends to help libraries plan for changes.
 - Need for non-Roman cataloging. OCLC needs more cataloging partners who can provide non-Roman cataloging.
- Use of course management software and other electronic resources (non-book format) and the need to integrate these with the libraries’ collections.
 - Need to understand implications of institutional repositories and link management
- Continued trend for states and other groups to move Interlibrary Loan off OCLC.
 - Texas, MLC, Palinet and others are looking at non-OCLC solutions
 - Some groups are using Rapid ILL (developed by Tom Delaney in CO)
 - NC Research Libraries use OCLC between one another