

Members Council May 2003
Library Group Report
SLT Issues Summary Report

Name of Group: State Academic Libraries I

Present: Emma Bradford Perry, Chair Sharon Bosarge (OCLC), Diane Dates Casey, David Cohen, Maggie Farrell, Betsy Hine, Barbara Krigel, Mary Ann Laun, Emma Bradford Perry, Alvaro Quijano-Solis, Joan Roca, Phil Schieber (OCLC), Rick Schwieterman (OCLC), Jay Starratt, Rich Van Orden (OCLC), Patrick Wilkinson, Betsy Wilson (OCLC Board) and Marie Zimmerman

Recorder: Phil Schieber

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

Techniques to gather input

- Members Council must ensure that input from various library types continues to be presented to OCLC in the absence of type-of-library advisory committees
- Establish multi-type distribution lists for information
- Need to get feedback from people actually using the product (pop-up surveys?) , not just library directors
- Need to have opportunities for Members Council to interact with users and various constituencies
- Delegates need to be more proactive—get out and speak to various groups, rather than sending reports out on listservs

Other Means to gather feedback

- Conduct focus groups with actual users at state library conferences
- Survey students and faculty who have used services
- Validate findings
- Members Council should work more closely with OCLC on environmental trends as they are being identified and provide input during the drafting process

Evaluation of written responses from SLT on Members Council concerns

- Questions from Members Council need to be more specific so that OCLC responses can be more specific
- It might be useful to post some questions/answers on the Members Council Web site, yet avoid excessive wordsmithing of documents for public consumption
- Questions and answers are a frank dialogue between Members Council and OCLC, and there needs to be some confidentiality
- netLibrary e-Books are awkward to use; seamless access is needed

How can Members Council enhance effectiveness of Interest and Library Groups?

- Be proactive in promoting a dialogue between delegates and users
- Validate findings from surveys, focus groups, etc.
- Get farther upstream in the environmental trend analysis

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

What do the terms regional and local environment mean to your group? List all the meanings.

- Local means my library, my campus, and the libraries in my community
- Local means my budget, what I control
- Local can be geographic or technical
- Local can mean private, as opposed to public; “your students are using my library”
- Regional means statewide public institutions
- State means legal, regional means geographic
- Communication from OCLC appears to be national to libraries in Mexico
- ALA web site addresses national-level interests for U.S. libraries

Define the top 3-4 most important influences on your library's operation.

- Consolidation of publishers, resulting in dysfunctional serials pricing
- Global economic downturn forcing budget cuts
- Security issues
- Copyright
- Funding of national programs (NEH, IMLS, etc.)
- Anti-intellectualism
- Standardization
- Lack of culture of cooperation (there could be more cooperation between departments within libraries, for example; cooperation is hard work)

What will be the impact of those top influences on your library's relationship with OCLC?

- How much can we afford to buy from OCLC?
- Decreased budgets means decreased activity on OCLC
- Statewide cooperative efforts present a real opportunity for OCLC
- OCLC can help libraries create an alternative structure for publishing, such as OAI and Dspace

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

- netLibrary needs to improve its access to e-Books; access should be seamless.
- There is risk in abandoning the type-of-library advisory committees—their input needs to be incorporated in Members Council deliberations.
- Members Council must have a balance between library directors and actual users of services
- OCLC needs to validate what it hears from those providing advice or opinions

Please indicate which, if any, topic the group thinks should be presented to the full Council.

- DSPACE and what OCLC is doing with institutional repositories