

**Meeting Minutes/Summary**  
**October 2007 Members Council Meeting**

**Group Name:**  
**Large Academic Libraries**

**Prepared and submitted by:**  
**Renee Register, Linda Dreier**

Have the minutes been reviewed by the group chair? Yes  No

Meeting minutes should be concise (not exceed two pages), summarize major discussion points, and be reviewed and approved by the group chair. Recorders, please email your meeting minutes to Bunny Gunderson ([gundersb@oclc.org](mailto:gundersb@oclc.org)) by the close of business on Tuesday, November 6.

**Attending: Shirley Baker, Chair; Klaus Ceynowa, Vice Chair; Barbara Dewey, Lynn Wiley, Susan Currie, Berndt Dugall, Wilbur Stolt, Jieh Hsiang, Tony Ferguson, Patricia Kantner, Jean Poland Mary Ann Laun, Anne Prestamo, Ernie Ingles, Gary Houk, Magda El-Sherbini, Jane Ryland, Marshall Keys, David Millikin, Jay Jordan, Robin Green, Julie Cunningham, Charles B. Lowry, Bonnie Juergens, Graham Jefcoate. Wesley Taoka, Andrew Reed**  
**Renee Register & Linda Dreier, Recorders**

**Meeting Minutes/Summary:**

With the directive to respond to the presentations by Stephen Abrams and Jay Jordan, chair Shirley Baker led the group in a lively discussion.

Steve Abrams' message was no surprise to members from large academic libraries. We know we need a presence in the social networking sites. The question is how and how much. The chief concern is we want to avoid corrupting and compromising the current assets, i.e., the trust our library users have in our ability to provide quality controlled information. Some feel Abrams is cutting off the roots of what we are now doing. But the general feeling is the traditional library will eventually move toward the library Abrams is talking about although not as fast or as much as he might wish. Jay Jordan's focus on the balance between doing it fast and doing it right is apropos.

The academic library is caught between the needs of two distinct groups – the older, more established faculty and the newer, young faculty and students. This perceived division will force libraries to change the way staff is organized and how services are delivered. This is already happening with “field librarians” going to faculty and students and actively listening and asking questions about their research and how they acquire information. This is perhaps not our typical work nor work with which we are most comfortable but we can be trained to ask the right questions and listen to the answers. We can be trained to “work the room.” Tech Service staff are already redeployed at many institutions – all have to do some type of public service work. OSU staff teach freshman seminars in the library. Purdue has E-Scholar. We have to get out and talk to our clientele.

As we become a presence in the social networking sites we need a clear understanding how these spaces should be used within the library context. We need to put our library where people are and where they are working. According to Ambrose the social networks are where both our current as well as future library users are lurking. We need to be able to push our content out to them but without compromising the integrity of the information. The basic concept of trust users have in the library is in danger if we enter the spaces with unmediated information. Ambrose did not address how we transfer our values and trust in these spaces.

It was mentioned we need to be mindful of the dangers of these open social spaces with the number one danger being governmental intrusion and data gathering in the guise of national security.

In conclusion we need to push our library material out to where people are and social networking tools may help us do that. The question then remains what do we want to push out? Can World Cat Local help us connect with social networks? How else can OCLC help libraries within these open spaces?

### **Recommended Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

Strategic discussion on how we use electronic materials and their capabilities. How do they fit in with what we do?

How can we use current applications and developing tools to push out our library content to users?

Discussion of terms we want to use in the SN space. How do we take our values there? How can we be active in SN without losing the trust the public has for us and information we supply.

Can OCLC speak with a collective voice to the SN developmental teams rather than each library going on its own, duplicating time and effort? All of us struggle with local development. OCLC helps us provide high quality services in high quality paths for our clientele.

How do we retain the identity of the library?