

Meeting Minutes/Summary
October 2007 Members Council Meeting

Group Name: _____ **Public & School Libraries** _____

Prepared and submitted by: _____ **Lisa Elliott** _____

Have the minutes been reviewed by the group chair? Yes X 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) by the close of business on Tuesday, November 6.

Attending: Beth Barlow, Meribah Mansfield, George Bishop, Steve Podgajny, Migell Acosta, Bette Ammon, Anne Marie Gold, George Needham, Stewart Bodner, Kathleen Imhoff, David Bradbury, Beverly Obert, Lyn McKinney, Collette Mak, John Szabo, Jose Antonio Yanez, Phyllis Christensen, Cindy Czesale, David Roselle, Joan Mitchell, Libbie Crawford, Eric Childress, Rita Hamilton, Barbara Berg, Linda Gabel, Myrtle Myers, Jennifer Pearson, Pat French, Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Ishwar Laxminarayan, Suzanne Schriar, Deanne W. Holshouser, Bob VanVolkenburg, Dave Penniman, Tracy Rochow Byerly, Jeff Baskin, John Tsebe

Meeting Minutes/Summary:

The meeting chair began by asking for comments on the talk given by Steve Abrams and asking for ideas that seemed exciting and doable.

The discussion quickly moved to Open WorldCat. The comment was made that Open WorldCat is not really open because it doesn't present itself as a web service, and doesn't have open APIs like Amazon, so data isn't really exposed. The APIs need to be aggregated and made available collaboratively. Why do I have to re-type my reviews of a book in Amazon, Facebook, MySpace, WorldCat, etc. All reviews should show up everywhere.

Web services are a difficult concept to understand, and not everyone has the technical expertise to exploit Open WorldCat. If it was truly done as a web service, people would be innovating around it, rather than OCLC trying to build a common interface. What group is providing feedback about the interface? George Needham commented that users were providing most of the feedback to OCLC.

Some were skeptical of Abrams comments about users, and were very concerned that he seemed to think that libraries didn't know their end users, and that we need to be talking to the under 30 demographic. Many commented how difficult it can be to reach this group because they typically don't turn out to vote for library levies, and it is difficult to set up in their social space. It was suggested that instead of having conferences and talking to each other, that a summit should be set-up with 19-29 year olds to gather their input on information use.

The discussion next turned to the concept of "institutional transformation" and many stated that online usage has exceeded the number of people walking through the door. It was suggested that OCLC could play a key role in helping libraries to make this transformation using targeted processes that lead to key transformations, perhaps by using a long-term consultation agreement to help with transformation. George Needham suggested that there might even be some individuals in the library community who

might be very good at helping their library colleagues facilitate a transformation. A local model of “institutional transformation” that libraries can use would be helpful, especially on how to plumb the depths of the younger librarians, so that their value is immediately recognized and utilized.

It seems that OCLC is worrying more about how the library is being used virtually and forgetting the library as a physical gathering place for community programming, and civic interaction. Abrams emphasized that people are critical to the library, and all contact is not virtual. Furthermore, for many school libraries, the question of online safety is paramount, and there are still many hurdles to cross in creating a virtual space that is both safe for children and innovative.

Is it possible for libraries to be everywhere? Do we need to strategize and focus?

Recommended Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

There were no suggested agenda items for the next meeting.