

Americas Regional Council Candidate Statements

Bradley Schaffner

College Librarian and Senior Lecturer, CARLETON COLLEGE, USA



OCLC is a leading global library collaborative organization. One of the keys to OCLC's success is its strong connections and close ties to its members. Member input plays a crucial role in guiding the services, research, and future directions of the cooperative. Global Council is one of the important ways that OCLC interacts with its members. Delegates have the opportunity to work closely with OCLC staff and through this interaction can reflect the needs and concerns of member libraries. I would be honored to serve as vice-chair of Americas Regional Council and would work to ensure that the link between OCLC and its members remains strong and dynamic.

Debbie Schachter

University Librarian, CAPILANO UNIVERSITY, CANADA



I am running for the position of Vice-Chair of the Americas Regional Council as I feel that I have the depth of understanding and awareness of the needs of our member libraries, throughout the Americas. I also have a great interest in supporting libraries through their voice at OCLC, with respect to the very real challenges we all address regarding funding, staffing, technology, and innovation. Membership in OCLC means engagement and a requirement to participate as a true member in the Cooperative. I hope that I will be able to contribute more fully to the Cooperative, on behalf of member libraries, in the role of Vice-Chair of Americas Regional Council.

Seangill Peter Bae

Head of Scholarly Content Services, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, USA



I firmly believe that no one library can collect all the materials which their patrons need. Libraries need to share their resources and work together to help their patrons. As a resource sharing librarian who started the work, first of all, with the OCLC Passport system in early 2000, I have experienced and undoubtedly understand the benefits, current and potentials, of the OCLC network which can help immensely the library communities worldwide. There is no other network that can effectively connect the global library communities better than OCLC. I wish to contribute the expertise I have acquired from my activities in International resource sharing works for the Global and Regional Councils so that the OCLC network can be a tool which enables a seamless resource sharing among the libraries worldwide. I also believe the Council's work is one of the best ways to share our knowledge and experiences.

David Drysdale

University Librarian, UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, JAMAICA



I have served previously as an alternate delegate to Global Council and also completed a two-year term for a delegate who unfortunately passed away. So I have experience in representing the interests of OCLC member libraries in the Caribbean. I would like to continue using my experience to make a positive impact on Global Council as a delegate-at-large.

Mary Konkel

Head of Technical Services, COLLEGE OF DUPAGE LIBRARY, USA



I would be honored to continue service as member of the ARC Executive Committee and promise to continue my role in spurring continuous reflection, feedback, and identification of trends and futures for library-related work. I feel somewhat like an OCLC baby, have “cut my teeth” and “learned to walk” on OCLC products and services for nearly 38 years, primarily in the world of technical services. I want to further our discussions on diversity, not only among the perspectives of our members within ARC and the entire Global Council, but also at home in our own libraries. Our staffing and language proficiency on the job should become more reflective of the communities we serve. Our engagement, outreach, and focus groups should include and celebrate the diversity of our users. I welcome the opportunity to share and frame these conversations and champion our ideas forward to inform OCLC.

Chatham Ewing

Digital Library Strategist, CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, USA



I believe that I have a wealth of experience to offer to the advisory role of the council, and that I bring perspectives from areas of library practice that will enrich council's discussions of OCLC's role in the evolving world of libraries.

Eric Suess

Director, MARSHALL PUBLIC LIBRARY, USA



I have been especially interested in the areas of ethics, privacy, intellectual freedom, and advocacy. I am strongly interested in partnering with other OCLC Council members from different locales and organization types to help stimulate innovation, and share successes across these boundaries. I have been successful, over the course of my career, in bringing together a variety of needs and experiences, and creating a working solution that benefits everyone. My current perspective, that of a medium-sized public library from the northwest of the country is underrepresented in both aspects. I feel I can positively add to the mix.

Hong Yao

Assistant Director, QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY, USA



Public libraries throughout the nation have been going through many innovations to keep up with the changing nature of public needs and to keep relevant to our constituencies. However, our voices are not always the loudest to be heard. I would like to help change the perception by running for the delegate position at the Regional Council. With many years of experience in the public library world, I can be instrumental in helping the larger library world understand more of the challenges as well as opportunities facing public library sector and in coming up with more support for the public library world.

Arne Almquist

Dean of the Library, NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, USA



I have had long experience as a user of OCLC services, starting as a paraprofessional cataloger in the early 1980s. We are a WMS library and I would like to use my experience to help to further the development of OCLC's products and services by serving as a conduit for input and feedback.

Lorely Ambriz

Librarian and Assistant Professor, EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, USA



I would like to serve as an OCLC ARC Delegate because there is a need to involve more library decision makers from Central and South America. I think I can also bring my networking skills with border states in the U.S., with Mexico, Central America, Caribbean and Latin America to bring their voices to the OCLC Global Council. Working with PAHO/WHO at the international level has given me a diverse perspective of the disparities of library infrastructure and services in the U.S.-Mexico Border region and the Americas as a whole, something that can be changed with macro strategic planning vs micro isolated interventions that are not sustainable or closing the gap.

Diane Beattie

Director, Description Division, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, CANADA



I would like to represent and communicate the interests, needs, and issues of my own National Library to the leadership of OCLC. I am also very interested in helping to shape, inform, and influence OCLC's strategic direction, products, and services.

Annette Day

Director, Collections, Acquisitions and Discovery, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, USA



OCLC is a unique organization that provides the framework for global collaboration and cooperation to real and positive effect. Serving as a delegate is an opportunity to reflect the shared values of OCLC membership and give voice to member colleagues with the goal of advancing the libraries and the profession. My focus is on positioning the library as an integral partner in the research enterprise and transforming operations and services to be more responsive to our patron needs. Facilitating innovative solutions through careful consideration of the issues and challenges, building collaborations across departments, university organizations and libraries and implementing appropriate technology has been my approach. I hope to bring this perspective to the role of delegate to further the work of the cooperative.

Christine Dulaney

Director of Technical Services, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, USA



I would be honored to serve as a delegate on the OCLC Americas Regional Council. Having worked in several library communities—law libraries, academic libraries and the Library of Congress—I have developed an appreciation for the complexity of perspectives on library issues which impact services to library users. Through my work in technical services, I have developed an appreciation for OCLC’s products and services and a deep understanding of how the OCLC network can support library initiatives. I am most excited about the various projects developing shared collections and exposing library’s unique collections. I view the opportunity to provide creative thinking into shaping the direction of library collaboration on a national level as an important responsibility. As a delegate, I look forward to serving as a voice for members as we define the challenges and discover the opportunities which OCLC can support.

John-Bauer Graham

Dean of Library Services, JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY, USA



I represent the regional, medium-sized and smaller academic libraries. I know that OCLC encourages the Council members to be reflections rather than representatives, but reflections “represent” something. A mirror, if you will. I am those smaller regional academic libraries, specifically the numerous ones in the Southeast. I have worked in almost every department and division of academic librarianship and can speak to the needs of each. Most importantly to the council, I can speak to what impact the long and rich history of OCLC has had/will have on each. I am a reflection of those regional southern academic libraries, I am a reflection of OCLC since OCLC is a part of us. Most importantly, because it was the members that built and continue to grow the organization, I wish to be on the council to make sure the reflection remains true to that spirit ... so that we (libraries and OCLC) don’t lose sight of one another.

Gregory Heald

Associate Dean of University Libraries, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO, USA



I am keenly interested in fostering the collaborative work of OCLC. I believe that to successfully move library services toward the future, we must inform the power of inter-institutional cooperation with targeted research and leveraged technical expertise. Further, I believe our membership organization must transcend for-profit metaphors like Uber and AirBnB and be conceived of as a social enterprise.

MacKenzie Smith

University Librarian, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS, USA



Libraries of all types, but particularly academic research libraries, are undergoing dramatic changes in their core operations. Wholesale transition from traditional MARC-based automation to modern Web-era linked data systems is just one example of the transformative shifts we are experiencing. OCLC is a key part of the library technology ecosystem that we all depend on for the success of these transitions, and to ensure that our operations are sustainable in the future. As a long-time library technology expert and administrator, I am committed to ensuring that OCLC is a positive force for change and evolution, understanding and supporting the needs of the academic members of the cooperative, and continuing to be effective for all libraries.

Scott Warren

Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, USA



OCLC is a transformative asset for all libraries because such collective engagement is the only way we can truly develop at-scale solutions for resource and data sharing. As OCLC continues to explore new initiatives (RIMS, linked data, etc.), the next few years will be crucial for charting a course that enables the steady growth of capacity - both for OCLC itself and for its members. Growing strategically requires sensitivity towards enabling innovative services, carefully reviewing alternative tactics given goals, mission, and available resources, and listening to the needs of members. The directions OCLC chooses could inform how participating libraries allocate resources, influence national conversations, and even shape policy. I bring a perspective not only representative of a mid-size private research university library, but one shaped by a close relationship with a cutting-edge iSchool.