Because what is known must be shared.

OCLC GLOBAL COUNCIL 2019 ELECTIONS

Americas Regional Council
Candidate Statements

May Chan
HEAD, METADATA SERVICES, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARIES (ONTARIO, CANADA)

I want to be a delegate because I am interested in learning more about OCLC, forming productive relationships with other members, and exploring how UTL may be able to contribute to the cooperative. Given my strengths and interests, I can envision contributing to the cooperative by strengthening relationships among members through deep listening and thoughtful analysis of issues. I am also attuned to the complex dynamics of organizational culture and barriers to participation. I would be committed to finding constructive ways to improve organizational infrastructures to empower members and increase participation.

Joseph Hafner
ASSOCIATE DEAN, COLLECTION SERVICES, MCGILL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY (QUEBEC, CANADA)

It would be exciting to be a delegate to Global and/or Americas Regional Council, because OCLC is at an interesting place as it moves ahead in a world balancing open access, big vendors, an explosion of electronic resources, while managing all of the formats and materials we have always handled at libraries and archives in a world where everyone wants things delivered to their fingertips immediately. OCLC is a strong leader because it is a cooperative made up of librarians and library staff who want to make a difference in the lives of the people we are serving. It is a unique opportunity to actively participate in the workings of a large cooperative like OCLC and help ensure we keep listening to our members, gather research about our profession, keep up with trends, and position the organization to continue to great things for the future.
Brenda Mathenia
LIBRARIAN III, THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY (BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA)

Having spent the last two plus years, getting “up to speed” as a “new” ARC delegate to the OCLC Global Council, in this my final year, year three, I finally feel like I know what I’m supposed to be doing as a delegate and that with a little more time I’ll become my most useful to OCLC in the coming years. Feeling fully grounded in the role of delegate and having gained much needed insight into OCLC’s vision, mission, mandate and priorities, as well as now being able to embrace the true role of a delegate, I would like to continue my work with OCLC to ensure that the efforts of this organization are guided by the best possible information it has available, which is its members and member organizations. My connections within the academic library sector in Canada and the U.S., combined with my experience as a library leader in both countries, ensures I bring a wide and varied perspective. My networks are extensive, which allows me to share my OCLC knowledge and experiences with a wide audience and that same wide audience is important for getting the input on key issues and developments that keep OCLC honest and relevant to her members. My personal experience with collection development, electronic resources, change and transition management, leadership and teaching and learning mean I have the knowledge and skills to bring real-world experience to bear in my work with OCLC. I am seeking a second term to allow me to bring my best delegate self to the discussions and development of OCLC services and resources, to the dissemination of OCLC-related information across networks and ensure small- to medium-sized Canadian academic libraries remain represented with this important organization.

David Drysdale
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY CALVIN MCKAIN LIBRARY (JAMAICA)

As a delegate, I will consult with colleague librarians to get their views on improving OCLC products and services. I will also make suggestions at the Global and Regional Council levels as to how OCLC can better serve institutions in the region. As a strong advocate for automating library services in my country, I would work with OCLC to help small libraries have online catalogues to serve their users.
Sasekea Harris  
HEAD, SCIENCE & ENGINEERING BRANCH LIBRARY, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA (JAMAICA)

As a librarian, I have established a track record of professional competence, industry, productivity, service delivery excellence, courageous leadership, creativity, innovation and outreach. As a former cataloguing librarian, a current cataloguing (metadata creation) lecturer, a senior librarian and leader within the UWI, I believe I bring a wealth of experience in working with OCLC’s premier and primary metadata products and services. I am highly competent in my current field of practice and have stayed on the cutting edge of trends and issues in this area. I have the distinction of being the only author of papers dedicated to “trends and issues” in academic librarianship in Jamaica. I am therefore poised to reflect the views of the issues facing libraries/librarians in the Americas and to be an integral part of the decision process for the region. I would like to maximize the ways in which libraries in the Americas cooperate in the core areas of librarianship. I would also like to build and engage opportunities where the value of libraries in the Americas are researched, recorded and formally shared.

Marta Bernal Jimenez  
OACAI DIRECTOR, INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO (PUERTO RICO)

As a librarian, I have worked with OCLC since 1987. I took many workshops, we hosted several here in Puerto Rico and went to Atlanta to several other Solinet annual meetings in which I learned a lot. I consider OCLC a library partner, always performing research in subjects we need to focus on or comply with as professionals. As a Spanish speaker, I would like to contribute with efforts to better support Hispanics in the Americas and the Caribbean. Also, I would like to strengthen the cooperative essence of OCLC, vital and so needed in the global world.
Antoinette Pinder-Darling  
CATALOGUING LIBRARIAN, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS (BAHAMAS)

I want to be a delegate at Global Council because it provides the best opportunity for me to network and grow as a library professional as well as take advantage of opportunities to expand our products and services based on OCLC innovations for libraries.

Jill Kleven  
DIRECTOR OF USER SERVICES, PUEBLO CITY COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT (COLORADO, USA)

While I truly appreciate OCLC, I have always wanted to see a larger presence from public library representatives. PCCLD has won many awards this year including Colorado Library of the Year, 2018 Four Star Library, and the Leslie Knope Award, and was an IMLS Finalist. I feel that PCCLD is on the cutting edge of library services and would love to contribute to the library community with our knowledge and experiences in Pueblo.
Jennifer Maguire-Wright
CHIEF, MATERIALS MANAGEMENT, FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA (PENNSYLVANIA, USA)

I believe it is important to think globally when working in a local library. We serve customers in person and online and libraries need to share knowledge and skills to improve our services.

Lynette Schurdevin
LIBRARY DIRECTOR, RIO RANCHO PUBLIC LIBRARY (NEW MEXICO, USA)

I am a past delegate and found being a part of the Global and Regional Councils allowed me to see a better picture of how OCLC benefits libraries and their services to our communities.
Renaud Vernet
CHIEF OF Technical SERVICE AND ACQUISITION, BROSSARD’S LIBRARY (QUEBEC, CANADA)

I want to be a delegate to represent French public libraries in North America. It's a specification that is often forgotten. I would like to be an ambassador in my region to promote OCLC service that is not often known here. Personally, it’s for me the occasion to develop a network with professionals outside of my region.

Julie Walker
ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR LIBRARIES & STATE LIBRARIAN, GEORGIA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE (GEORGIA, USA)

As a state librarian in a large state, I am uniquely situated to see the diverse needs of libraries large and small, with varying levels of resources upon which to draw. My colleagues in other states join me in our belief that OCLC plays a vital role in the success of today's libraries, and in our concern that these essential services remain affordable and within reach to libraries worldwide. I look forward to expanding my knowledge of library practice worldwide and bringing my 35 years of experience to the OCLC councils.
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Polly Boruff-Jones  
DEAN OF THE LIBRARY, INDIANA UNIVERSITY KOKOMO (INDIANA, USA)

I bring a perspective from a small academic library. Libraries the size of ours may not have library technology staff and that can present challenges upon adoption of new or updated technology. I can represent those challenges to OCLC and speak to the benefits of OCLC services to libraries the size of ours. My background is primarily in public services—reference and information literacy—and collection development. I will contribute my expertise from the viewpoints of the end-user and the librarians who teach our users about our services and resources. Additionally, I would like to engage in OCLC discussions about open access and open educational resources (OER).

Gregory Heald  
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO (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. On Global Council and ARC, I will want to advocate for the needs of small and medium-sized libraries who must address the same big challenges facing our community but lack the resources available to largest institutions.
While OCLC is essential to academic libraries in the U.S., it’s not clear to me the extent to which academic libraries have influence on OCLC’s plans for serving their needs—especially for those of us at medium-sized to small institutions such as mine. As Kirsten Leonard, the executive director at PALNI points out, if you add up our faculty, staff, and student FTEs, we are the equivalent of an R1 institution—but our influence is more diffuse. I want to become part of the conversation about the future of OCLC’s services especially to members who are on the front lines—great colleges like Earlham College that is suffering declining enrollment. Our new faculty and incoming students arrive with expectations for access to information that we cannot possibly meet without OCLC. I believe that working with organizations such as PALNI as development partners can strengthen OCLC in terms of improving its technologies as well as its customer service.

In very simple terms, I’d like to give back to the profession and the larger community by sharing my talents and international background to providing excellent service to the OCLC Global Council. My diverse background, successful scholarship and administrative work provide me with a set of skills that will be an asset as a delegate, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve.
Bradley Schaffner  
COLLEGE LIBRARIAN, CARLTON COLLEGE (MINNESOTA, USA)

OCLC is the 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 key 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 a second term as a delegate to the Americas Regional Council.

Brad Warren  
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF LIBRARY SERVICES, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI (OHIO, USA)

I have become more interested in serving as a delegate to the Americas Regional Council after attending the Conference in Chicago in October 2018. I have a strong background in library services and resource sharing, which are strategic areas of development and importance both for OCLC and broadly to libraries that need to seek cost-effective solutions in accessing collections and materials rather than ownership. I am a creative and innovative thinker while also appreciating the opportunity to learn from others and helping contribute to a shared vision of what is and what can be achieved through collaboration and advocacy. I welcome the opportunity to broaden my experiences on a national and global setting and believe my previous experiences in my direct job responsibilities, leadership, consortial work and professional contributions make me an ideal candidate for the council.
Arne Almquist
DEAN OF THE LIBRARY, LAMAR UNIVERSITY (TEXAS, USA)

I have worked in libraries for more than 30 years and fully understand the value of resource sharing. The OCLC database is an excellent gateway to resources available at libraries around the world. I would like to participate in those efforts in a more active way than I am at present. The future of information access is through resource brokerage, that is, working within connections to vendor resources and those of other libraries rather than trying to build truly comprehensive collections within our institutions.

Earl Givens, Jr.
LIBRARY DIRECTOR, CATAWBA COLLEGE (NORTH CAROLINA, USA)

I want to be a voice of hope for small liberal arts libraries. As a small liberal arts college library, financial resources are in short supply at my institution. As a result, I spend a lot of my time raising money through donations, grant writing, and forming partnerships. With a background in information technology, I am constantly discovering new ways to leverage the strengths of being a small college library, by introducing 21st century technology into our ethos at a reduced cost. Being a delegate provides me the opportunity to share with all my colleagues, especially small libraries, that there are ways to be dynamic and innovative whether resources are available or not.
Elizabeth McClennen
DIRECTOR OF THE LIBRARY, ROANOKE COLLEGE (VIRGINIA, USA)

This year’s theme, “Change the Game: Libraries as Drivers of Transformation,” resonates with me for a number of reasons. When thinking about my own institution, a small liberal arts college, I would like to help ensure that the voices of similar institutions have a seat at the table. We often find ourselves on the cusp of transformation, at times very deliberately, and other times in response to what is happening in our larger environments. And, we tend to execute well, even when we might have less ... less staff, less financial resources, fewer collection resources. Many of our campuses are becoming micro-communities that are taking on issues that are in their larger geographic communities ... diversity and inclusivity, civil discourse, socio-economic challenges, opioids. Libraries can influence how these issues are viewed; not only by acquiring a diversity of resources on these issues, but by facilitating the conversations about them, and by ensuring that the delivery mechanisms to provide access do not create barriers. I envision my contribution to Councils will be how we remain fluid, relevant, and on task with the communities that we serve.

Anchalee Panigabutra-Roberts
HEAD, CATALOGING DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE (TENNESSEE, USA)

As I have developed a deeper understanding of OCLC’s operation, research and development and her direction over the years both in the U.S, Middle East and also with AMICAL members in Europe and Central Asia, I feel strongly that my knowledge of OCLC and the future direction of GLAM-related technologies, from my own research interest in researcher identifiers (see my ORCID ID: 0000-0002-9333-1102) to my own exploration of linked data and the discussion around AI, blockchains and other issues in scholarly communication, I am more ready to be taking on a leadership position in OCLC membership to leverage my knowledge to support OCLC at the global scale.
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David Schuster  
DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY  
(NEW YORK, USA)

As resources continue to be scarce for libraries sharing and building bridges to information is more critical than ever. Vendors continue to build systems that use data in unique ways, but still rely on the transfer of information. It is critical that we continue to work together to ensure the data needed is available for all systems and the access is easy and fluid. OCLC has a lot at stake in resource sharing and the holder of critical metadata. Ensuring its health and stability is critical to the region, the United States and the world.

Scott Warren  
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
(NEW YORK, USA)

Growing strategically requires sensitivity towards innovative services, tactics that reflect goals, mission, and available resources, and listening to members. The directions OCLC chooses will help shape how libraries allocate resources, influence national conversations, and inform policy discussions. I bring the perspective of a mid-size private research university library that also has a close relationship with a cutting-edge iSchool. I also served as an alternate delegate in 2018/19 and have attended several OCLC Research Partnership events over the years, giving me a feel for this community. Finally, attending the recent 2018 regional conference (and pre-conference) in Chicago was a dramatic illustration of the impact that the OCLC ARC can have in bringing librarians together for change. I want to be a part of ensuring similar future events like that happen!