

EMEA Regional Council Candidate Statements

Rocky Ralebipi-Simela

National Librarian and CEO, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH AFRICA



Over the years I have realised the glaring absence of African voices in issues related to LIS on this platform. My leadership role in the UN Development Agenda at the national and international levels has exposed me to some of the most knowledgeable and experienced librarians whose participation in OCLC would make it a truly vibrant and strengthened LIS cooperative on the globe. Many of these librarians are struggling to see the relevance of OCLC in their work, especially African National Librarians who seem to think that OCLC is for a selected few and has no relevance to them. I see my role in the regional council as that of a bridge builder to facilitate better understanding of the needs of members and to encourage those who are not members to think about joining the OCLC family, especially if they are to assist their countries meet their development agenda goals.

Carlos Wong-Martínez

University Librarian, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN NIGERIA
NIGERIA



My central intent is to faithfully represent the interests of OCLC members in the Africa region. After seven months of experience as AUN's University Librarian, I have come to appreciate the needs and aspirations of the library community in Central Africa. My observations have been confirmed through frequent interactions with librarians from across Nigeria and Cameroon. I want to give them a voice at the Global and Regional councils to inform that our region requires support to implement open source software, open access materials, and affordable subscriptions to electronic products. My participation at the councils will serve to highlight other major issues like the need to implement policies at the regional level for (i) digitization of unique items in danger of disappearance, and (ii) training opportunities for native library personnel. If elected, I promise commitment, energy, and motivation to promote and advance Africa's local and regional interests at OCLC.