

EMEA Regional Council Candidate Statements

Birgitta Ebner

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, VIENNA PUBLIC LIBRARIES (AUSTRIA)



I would like to apply for OCLC Global Council because I am very interested to be part of the network to exchange ideas about the future of our libraries. Libraries have to face new challenges in a rapidly changing information technology environment. The role of libraries will significantly change over the coming years, driven by demographic changes, rising urban migration and technological advances. Libraries of the future will have to serve more culturally diverse and physically dense communities, under the pressure of limited resources. Therefore, it is important to enhance the value of library services and improve the productivity of librarians and librarian users in time. Together, as a network, we have greater impact to champion libraries and increase their visibility. Joining OCLC as a Global Council is a good opportunity to work on different services that help libraries operate more efficiently and enable them to focus more time and resources on their goals. I am really looking forward to the worldwide collaboration and to discuss and work on the future of libraries.

Ayub Khan

HEAD OF LIBRARIES AND FACE-TO-FACE SERVICES, WARWICKSHIRE LIBRARY SERVICES (UNITED KINGDOM)



The UK will still be part of Europe when it leaves the EU. We have to see Brexit as an opportunity to renew and refresh our international engagement, and to strengthen ties with the library profession in Europe and beyond. If elected, I would focus on libraries' future potential, as well as their proud traditions. I would promote diversity and inclusion and champion archive accessibility and resource discovery - so important in the digital age. Big data is another big issue for libraries. I believe international library organisations such as OCLC have a pivotal role to play in providing a positive narrative for libraries—and pressing for positive action—as the leading voice of a vibrant and forward-thinking profession. I hope my experience would bring a broader perspective, and I would welcome opportunities to influence policy, ensuring grass roots concerns and aspirations were fully considered.

Beate Meinck

HEAD OF THE LIBRARY, STADTBIBLIOTHEK REUTLINGEN (GERMANY)



As I have already explained, I find the exchange in international networks very important! But I don't just want to learn from others, I want to contribute my own experience and knowledge. I would like to represent the positions of public libraries. With my professional experience I bring in the point of view from small and large libraries. I would like to work on common topics and contribute my own topics. I bring in "my" topics from my large, nationwide network. I am in contact with many library managers and always have an open ear. I am confident that I can represent the interests of German public libraries in the OCLC network. I want to act as an interface between OCLC and the German public libraries.

Tuba Akbaytürk

LIBRARY DIRECTOR, KOÇ UNIVERSITY (TURKEY)



I have already been serving on the Council for this term and actively have participated in committee activities as needed. I presented once and moderated a session once at EMEAC 2017 and 2018. I am armed with the advantage of being an IFLA/OCLC Fellow, which makes me very familiar with OCLC's structure. I work for an institution where we actively use OCLC products and services. I come from a region which has been underrepresented in the Councils. This region has its own realities and ways of doing business. My understanding about the region and ability to bridge the divide can be beneficial for all parties. These benefits will be more significant if I can get the chance to serve for a second term.

Evi Tramantza

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF THESSALONIKI (GREECE)



I hope I will be able to contribute with helping to focus OCLC research and services in a way that would enable regional members and beyond to bridge the gap and engage better in the current conversations on teaching and learning, information literacy, open access, spaces, professional development, collection development, and more. I will assist in communicating needs and opportunities as well as help with reflecting back to OCLC insights to help make OCLC services practically relevant to the communities represented.

Anna Wolodko

LIBRARY DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW LIBRARY (POLAND)



I believe that networking and cooperation brings many benefits for libraries and librarians. The collaboration within the Global and Regional Councils helps standardize cataloging formats, policies, procedures and practices among libraries and achieve better understanding of different development paths. Sharing experience and best practices gives us all a possibility to bring various ideas and issues together and discuss them. I would like to share with you more than 20 years of experience in shared cataloging run by academic libraries in Poland. It could be a valuable contribution to the development of library cooperation. I would like to share our knowledge and participate in the development of new standards and new forms of cooperation. I am open to all types of initiatives, including training programs and conferences.