

Background on the OCLC Credits Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Note: For an FAQ on the Credits Program Transition, please go to:

<http://oc.lc/credits-transition-faq>

- Who were the representatives to the OCLC Global Council Advisory Group on Incentives?

Response:

- **ChewLeng Beh**—National Library Board of Singapore, APRC
- **Raymond Bérard**—ABES, France, EMEARC
- **Sarah Campbell**—Portland (Maine) Public Library, ARC
- **Hsueh-hua Chen**—National Taiwan University, APRC
- **Alison Elliott**—National Library of New Zealand, APRC
- **Barbara Preece**—Loyola-Notre Dame Library, Baltimore, MD, ARC
- **Anne Prestamo**—Oklahoma State University, University Libraries, ARC
- **Brian Schottlaender**—University of California, San Diego, OCLC Trustee
- **Anja Smit**—Utrecht University, EMEARC
- **Jerry Stephens**—University of Alabama at Birmingham, ARC
- **Wilbur Stolt**—University of North Dakota, ARC
- **Anne Van Camp**—Smithsonian Institution Archives, ARC
- **Bob Wolven**—Columbia University, member-at-large

- What types of credits are provided today?

Response: The program continues to include generally two categories of credits: cataloging credits and resourcing sharing credits, just as when it was originally developed. There are various types of cataloging credits including: original cataloging credits, Enhance credits, CONSER credits, database enrichment credits, minimal upgrade credits, holdings deletion credits, etc. There is one type of resource sharing credit, provided for lending.

- How many credits does OCLC issue annually?

Response: The following information is in the OCLC Annual Report. Here are the latest eight years of data:

- 2013: \$16.4 million in credits
- 2012: \$22.4 million in credits
- 2011: \$19.8 million in credits
- 2010: \$19.6 million in credits
- 2009: \$17.6 million in credits
- 2008: \$18.9 million in credits
- 2007: \$16.1 million in credits
- 2006: \$15.7 million in credits

- What is the level of participation in the incentive program throughout the OCLC membership?

Response: Annually, approximately 40% of OCLC member libraries participate in the Credits Program. The relatively low rate of participation across the total membership was one of the factors considered when the Global Council asked that the program be reviewed.

- Are credits given for records added via batchload or only via online input?

Response: Credits are given for original records added via batchload, but at a lower rate than for records added via Connexion, OCLC's online cataloging system.

- Why weren't the international members included in the incentive program?

Response: The program, originally called the Financial Credits Program, was established in 1985. At that time, the majority of member libraries were located in North America. Since the program's inception, the services and programs offered by OCLC have ranged from cataloging and resource sharing services to, more recently, Integrated Library Systems. The Credits Program was extended to few libraries beyond the North American geography over the past 28 years. But in many cases, libraries outside North America use WorldCat records differently, for example, to supplement national bibliography records used for their local catalogs. Many do not tend to access WorldCat through Connexion. Increasing the footprint of the program to include more geographies would likely require additional funding from the membership. The Global Council Advisory Group on Credits and Incentives includes members from multiple geographies. They are addressing geographic coverage considerations among the factors they are reviewing.

- What is the percentage of credits annually for cataloging vs. ILL?

Response: The following is the split for the financial value of the credits received by member libraries in fiscal year 2012:

- 78% for cataloging credits
- 20% for ILL credits
- 2% for library school-related credits.

- How many institutions were earning credits in excess of their total OCLC bill?

Response: Less than 0.5% of organizations participating in the Credits Program were earning credits in excess of their total OCLC bill in FY12.