**CHANGES TO OCLC'S MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE PROTOCOLS**
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. **What are the current requirements for OCLC membership? How do they change under the new protocols?**

   Under the former Membership and Governance Protocols: "Institutions worldwide become members of OCLC by contractually agreeing to contribute intellectual content or share resources with the entire Cooperative."

   Primarily, institutions achieve this by contributing their holdings information to WorldCat and/or using WorldCat for resource sharing. Another way to qualify for membership is for libraries to contribute to the QuestionPoint Knowledge Base.

   Institutions may contract with OCLC directly or may satisfy the "contractual" requirement by being included in the contract between OCLC and a group, such as a state library, a national library, or a regional or affinity consortium.

   The new protocols expand the definition of contribution to: "An institution qualifies for OCLC membership by doing one or more of the following on an ongoing basis:

   - Sharing intellectual content and/or participating in global resource or reference sharing via a subscription or contract for an OCLC system; or
   - Contributing intellectual content or participating in global resource or reference sharing through an OCLC system provided by another organization, such as a local or regional cooperative or consortium, a state or provincial library, or a national library; or
   - Subscribing or contracting for an OCLC library management system that will facilitate global sharing when transitioned to WorldShare."

   Additionally, under the former Protocols, if an institution has any qualifying activity in the past three years, its membership stays active. The new Protocols shorten this to a one-year period.

2. **Why did the Membership Committee propose these changes to the rules on membership?**

   The Membership Committee is charged with reviewing the membership requirements on an annual basis, and this is part of its regular cycle of work.

   Over the last decade, OCLC has expanded globally to include many libraries whose primary OCLC service is an integrated library system (ILS) in Europe and Australia. This growth has added over 5,000 libraries to the OCLC community. However, these systems are not integrated yet with WorldCat (though plans are to do so), so the libraries do not have an automatic means to contribute to the cooperative. As a result, there are numerous institutions that have supported OCLC's financial sustainability without having a voice in OCLC governance.

   OCLC has embarked on an ambitious program to create new WorldShare services that will make it possible to port these ILS systems to new technology over the next few years. This will make

global sharing possible and at that point, these systems will be able to share their holdings data and other information automatically with WorldCat.

The Membership Committee determined that it would facilitate more inclusive conversations within OCLC governance to expand the definition of membership now, bringing in these new voices as the technology evolves. This decision mirrors the actions made in 2002 to increase participation by inviting six "transitional" delegates to join OCLC's Members' Council. This modification made it possible for geographic areas that did not have sufficient usage to qualify for representation under the then-extant rules. Representation via these transitional delegates thus encouraged growth in participation by libraries in these countries. This act led to an increase in OCLC use and revenue support outside the cooperative's North American base.

3. **When will the changes go into effect?**
   The new Protocols go into effect July 1, 2013, but there will be no changes in membership eligibility until July 2014.

4. **When will the first Global Council election happen under the new protocols?**
   No changes will be made to the nominations or the elections process in 2014. Eligibility under the new membership protocols will take effect in July 2014; the first election impacted by the new protocols will be held in 2015.

5. **What happens between July 2013 and July 2014?**
   In the next year, OCLC will conduct a membership audit of all existing and potential members under the new protocols and definition. OCLC will communicate the details of changes resulting from the new membership protocols to any new members and to institutions that will no longer be members under the new definition. The changes will impact the minority of OCLC membership. There is no action required on behalf of member institutions.

6. **What is the OCLC Membership Committee? Who serves on the Committee?**
   The OCLC Membership Committee is a standing committee of the OCLC Board of Trustees. Its six members are appointed by the Board Chair. Unlike other Board committees, the Membership Committee includes three Global Council delegates and three trustees. The Global Council delegates are nominated by the Council's Executive Committee.

   In 2013, Trustee Kathleen Imhoff chairs the Membership Committee. Maggie Farrell and Loretta Parham are the other two trustees on the Committee. They are joined by Poul Erlandsen, Anne Prestamo and Andrew Wells from the Council. The three delegates represent each of the Council's

three regions (the Americas, Asia Pacific, and Europe, the Middle East and Africa). George Needham, Vice President of Global and Regional Councils, serves as staff liaison.

7.  **Will any geographic region (Americas, Asia Pacific, or Europe, the Middle East and Africa) lose or gain delegates to Global Council due to these changes?**
    No. Since 2009, the allocation of delegates to Global Council has been based on each region's share of total OCLC revenue over the past three years. While this change will most likely increase the numbers of members in the EMEA and Asia Pacific regions, it will not affect the allocation of the number of delegates from a region.

8.  **What was the process for review and approval of these changes?**
    The Membership Committee has been reviewing the membership protocols since 2010, and specifically, looking at the role of integrated library systems in OCLC's membership structure. In February 2013, the Membership Committee met with other leaders of the cooperative to formulate these proposals. The initial proposals were shared with the Board and the Global Council for review and input. (A limited access blog was established to facilitate the discussion among the trustees and the delegates.) Following this discussion, the Committee prepared a revised Membership and Governance Protocols document for the Board to consider at its April 2013 meeting.

    The Board discussed this proposal at its April meeting, and asked for some further specificity in the Protocols. They also asked to have an implementation plan developed. This was accomplished by the Committee in April and May 2013.

    The Board approved the revised protocols on June 10, 2013. Global Council held an electronic ballot the following week to ratify the Board's approval. The new Protocols go into effect July 1, 2013, with the actual eligibility for new members to begin on July 1, 2014. This year (FY14) will be used to communicate widely to the current members and with the members who will qualify under the new rules.

9.  **Would signing up for the WorldCat Registry qualify an institution for membership?**
    No. While the WorldCat institutional registry, currently under development with the name "Library Spotlight," is a very useful tool for finding information about and creating simple geolocation for small libraries, it does not contribute holdings to WorldCat. Therefore, use of the registry will not qualify for membership.

10. **What if my institution decides it does not care to participate in governance?**
    Institutions will have the opportunity to opt out of membership governance participation.

11. **Is this proposal related to the analysis of the credits and incentives program?**

No. The Membership Committee is charged with reviewing the membership requirements on an annual basis, and this is part of its regular cycle of work. Separately, the Global Council Advisory Group on Credits and Incentives finalized recommendations that were accepted by the OCLC Board of Trustees and ratified by the Global Council in April.