



October 18, 2010

To the OCLC Membership:

WorldCat Rights and Responsibilities for the OCLC Cooperative went into effect August 1, 2010. The new policy was researched and drafted by the Record Use Policy Council, with much input from the community. The OCLC Board of Trustees had established the Policy Council to develop this new policy and provide a broad and inclusive set of perspectives and experiences, determine the current and future needs of stakeholders, and gather feedback from the OCLC membership.

The work of the Record Use Policy Council has now concluded. These global library leaders spent many months grappling with complex issues and listening to community input from librarians, technologists, and other interested parties. With its final report, the Council conveyed several learnings and recommendations from their work that we want to share with the membership:

- **Understanding and nurturing the consultative process.** Primary in the Council's findings was that the entire membership community—including OCLC management and the Board of Trustees—share an interest in enhancing communication within the cooperative to promote transparency whenever possible and to engage members in collaborative action planning.
- **WorldCat matters.** OCLC members and non-members alike recognize the exceptional nature of WorldCat as a shared asset. Continual stewardship of WorldCat is critical to ensuring not only its widest possible use, but also its long-term viability. OCLC members, governance participants and management, as well as OCLC partner organizations, all have roles in stewarding the shared asset.
- **Continual evolution.** Finally, the Council heard that the OCLC record use policy, business model and pricing strategies must continue to evolve in keeping with member needs and partnership opportunities. In particular, the Council affirmed the need to initiate a policy review at least every three years, ensure the participation of the cooperative, and welcome public comment.

We would like to thank the Council members for their work, and the community for such candid and thoughtful feedback toward this new policy. Producing a new record use policy, while a lengthy, difficult and at times turbulent process for both members and nonmembers, assured us of the community's passionate engagement in continuing the momentum of the OCLC cooperative through dialogue, collaborative learning, and shared purpose.

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