

PEER COUNCIL REPORT

3 topics

- OCLC CTSAC meeting
- Visit to OCLC
- Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) conference: Access and Infrastructure: Navigating our libraries in the new information landscape

1) OCLC CTSAC meeting

Collections & Technical Services Advisory Committee

Confidential - info on most everything can be found on OCLC's website

3 meetings since last Peer Council

a) November 10th meeting

- Cataloging strategy and product update - minutes of same topic appear in October 2005 Cataloging and metadata interest group meeting at Member Council.

Overview of cataloging environment that helped form the strategy: fewer catalogers and reduced budgets; little growth in print materials acquisitions; and e-resources increasing, but not necessarily cataloged. Four main themes emerged:

1. Deliver more cataloging automatically: through partnering with major materials providers, building on PromptCat and Cataloging Partners success, and pushing cataloging further upstream into ordering, as well as exploring RFID technologies.
2. More scripts/language support: grow WorldCat and grow membership
3. Metadata support for e-content: e-serials holdings pilot, support new formats with extraction/creation and crosswalks, and investigate appropriate views of WorldCat
4. Continue to deliver value: ongoing Connexion maintenance and enhancements, staying up to date with standards, and rolling out subscription pricing to all libraries in FY07.

—Eserials holdings pilot

The OCLC eSerials Holdings pilot, active since June 2005, is testing an efficient way for libraries to set and maintain their holdings information in WorldCat for electronically available serial publications, including individual titles and those in aggregated databases.

—Content cooperative concept

Will allow libraries and other cultural heritage institutions to upload digital objects to the Digital Archive and attach links for this digital content to a WorldCat record using the familiar Connexion interface. This content will then be accessible via FirstSearch or OpenWorldCat. The pilot, scheduled to begin March 2006, will determine the feasibility of integrating digital content management with cataloging to increase the visibility of unique library content.

--Terminologies pilot

OCLC is exploring a service that would provide access to multiple controlled vocabularies for libraries, museums, and archives to create consistent metadata for their collections. Selected mappings between vocabularies are provided to assist in relating terminology. The service would provide one-stop access to terminology resources and would be accessible through any web-based metadata editor.

b) December 2nd meeting

--Followup meeting on the e-serials pilot and how it might work

c) February 28th meeting

--Selection and ordering workflow

Committee members shared answers to the selection and ordering workflow questions sent out in advance. This included information about: the number of vendors; percent of items received on approval plans versus firm orders; numbers of selectors; if and how they receive notification from vendors; additional information selectors use to evaluate titles for selection; how selectors determine if a title is already held by the library; if they check holdings of other institutions or groups before purchasing; and how orders are placed etc.

A possible new OCLC Service to assist with the selection and ordering process was described. This service would bring together in a single interface, records of new publications provided by multiple material vendors and the Library of Congress. Library selectors review records matching their subject profile and take an action to order, reject, defer, or forward them. Selected items are then loaded into the library's ILS for ordering and bibliographic control.

On website - announcement: OCLC is developing a new selection service in partnership with Cornell University Library. The new WorldCat Selection service will be available from OCLC in the second half of 2006. It is based on the Integrated Tool for Selection and Ordering at Cornell University Library (ITSO CUL).

2) Visit to OCLC ☎

- 4 CIC conference attendees (Frances McNamara U of Chicago, Joan Schuitema U of Illinois - Chicago, Rebecca Mugridge PSU and me)
- Tour of main building, most interesting were usability lab and systems room
- 4 met with over 20 OCLC staff members in a "reverse site visit" so they could hear about our technical services environment and processes. What are the biggest issues and problems that need to be solved, what do we see happening in the next few years. Feedback on some of the projects they are working on.

3) Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) conference: Access and Infrastructure: Navigating our libraries in the new information landscape (Big 10/11 plus U of Chicago and U of Illinois at Chicago)

“Create a dynamic mix of experiences, expertise and ideas that will allow for thoughtful discussion of how we can best plan to meet the changing needs of the communities we serve.” Most of the presentation are on the conference webpage via the CIC webpage.

a) Keynote - David Weinberger

Author of “Small pieces loosely joined: a unified theory of the web”; also edits the online: Journal of hyperlinked organization (Joho) - independent newsletter that considers the web’s effect on how business works and the emergence of the hyperlinked organization.

Discussed how technology (including mass digitization) is changing the world, specifically the world of libraries and their users. 7 properties of knowledge

Blogger - check out his comments on the conference.

b) Carole Palmer - associate professor, SLIS, U of Illinois.

Researching how scholars in the humanities and sciences actually use resources when they work. Among the findings: Neuroscientists spend the most time exploring outside their domain - 54% of their time. She argued that “contextual mass - relatively small collections that provide context - can be as important as critical mass.

c) Francis Jacobson Harris - librarian at University of Illinois University High School.

Author of “I found it on the internet: coming of age online.”

Needs and interests of the users of tomorrow and how these will impact on the services we will need (and they will expect us) to provide for them. Kids tend to take in lots and lots of information and then eliminate what they don’t need, as opposed to doing highly targeted searches. Also spoke about her efforts to help students figure out sources of web pages.

Ex: www.MartinLutherKing.org looks legit but is actually run by the white supremacist group, Storm Front.

d) Cathy De Rosa, V.P. of Marketing and Library Services for OCLC. Principle contributor to the latest OCLC report: “Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources.” Same presentation that Alane Wilson will give this afternoon.

e) Deidre Caldbeck, Endeca Technologies

“OPAC search and navigation success story - NC State”

Patented technology “to help people find, analyze and understand information in ways never before possible”

Go to library information page at NCSU libraries website: find this information

On January 12, 2006, the NCSU Libraries announced the first library deployment of a revolutionary new online catalog. Leveraging the advanced search and Guided Navigation® capabilities of the Endeca ProFind™ platform, the NCSU Libraries' new catalog provides the speed and flexibility of popular online search engines while capitalizing on existing catalog records. As a result, students, faculty, and researchers can now search and browse the NCSU Libraries' collection as quickly and easily as searching and browsing the Web, while taking advantage of rich content and cutting-edge capabilities that no Web search engine can match.

f) Marty Kurth - Head of Metadata Services at Cornell University.

Discussed the foundations for the changes made in Technical Services at Cornell.

g) Robert Wolven - Director of Library Systems and Bibliographic Control at Columbia.

Spoke about how Columbia University libraries have changed their cataloging processes.

Both Marty and Bob spoke about great changes regarding digitizing collections and providing bibliographic control to the collections.

There were also focused group discussions around specific scenarios to encourage thought about approaching and planning for changes in technical services as well as poster sessions about innovative technical services projects that have been implemented.