

To the AALL Executive Board:

In November 2008, OCLC presented a new *Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records* to replace the current policy *Guidelines for the Use and Transfer of OCLC-Derived Records*, adopted November 16, 1987. The newly proposed policy has proven to be controversial within the OCLC membership. In response to the outcry by the membership, on January 13, 2009 OCLC announced that the OCLC Members Council and the OCLC Board of Trustees would convene a Review Board of Shared Data Creation and Stewardship to study the issues and report back to the President of the Members Council, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and the President and CEO of OCLC. The implementation of any new policy has been delayed until the third quarter of 2009.

At the same time, the Association of Research Libraries established an Ad Hoc Task Force to Review the Proposed OCLC Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records. That Task Force released its report and recommendation on January 30, 2009. That report has been endorsed by the ARL Board of Directors. The report (available at: www.arl.org/bm~doc/oclc-report-jan09.pdf) contains a number of observations and recommendations, the most important one being that it “calls on OCLC to develop a new policy to replace the one released in November 2008.” [Association of Research Libraries press release, February 20, 2009] At least two petition campaigns launched urging OCLC to do the same thing—rescind the current proposal and write a new policy with input from the member libraries.

There have been a number of recommendations to the Online Bibliographic Services SIS from AALL members suggesting specific changes within the proposed policy. However, we agree with the ARL Task Force and ARL Board that the current proposed policy is too deeply flawed and the atmosphere between OCLC and the member libraries has been too damaged to repair with editing this proposal. We agree that OCLC should retract the current proposal and write a new policy, involving the membership in the development of this policy.

In closing, we would like to quote Dr. K. Wayne Smith, the President of OCLC from 1989 to 1998. In an article title “OCLC: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” published in the *Journal of Library Administration*, Dr. Smith said:

“Clearly, the concept of membership governance influences all of OCLC’s plans and decisions and is a major characteristic that distinguishes the OCLC-user relationship from the traditional vendor-customer one. Librarians at both large and small libraries have rightfully come to think of their

institutions as stakeholders in OCLC with voices that require attention. ... The 25,000 libraries in 63 countries that participate in OCLC not only have an institutionalized voice and role in OCLC's governance, but they also deeply believe in library cooperation, in OCLC's broad public purposes, and in a constant dialogue on library-related issues."¹

We agree that OCLC-member libraries believe in the stake they hold in OCLC and that those libraries need to be heard when developing a new record use policy. Accordingly, we submit this resolution to the AALL Executive Board. We request the Board adopt the resolution and transmit it to the Chair of OCLC Board of Trustees, the President of the OCLC Members Council, the President and CEO of OCLC, and the Chair of the newly established Review Board of Shared Data Creation and Stewardship. In addition, we request that the resolution include the attached comments of the Online Bibliographic Services Special Interest Section Special Committee on Record Sharing.

¹ Smith, K. Wayne (1998) "OCLC: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, *Journal of Library Administration*, 25: 4, p. 256.