

In November 2008, OCLC announced a new policy for the Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records at <http://www.oclc.org/us/en/news/releases/200910.htm> to replace the Guidelines for the Use and Transfer of OCLC-Derived Records implemented in 1987. Due to overwhelming concerns raised by OCLC members, the OCLC Board of Trustees named a Review Board of Shared Data Creation and Stewardship to reassess the principles and best practices for sharing library data in January 2009. Also, the Association of Research Library Task Force to review the Proposed OCLC Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records presented its report in January 2009. <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/oclc-report-jan09.pdf>

In response to the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) President James Duggan's call to take an action on the policy change as a group, Michael Maben, Chair of the OBS-SIS, drafted and forwarded a resolution to the AALL Executive Board in March 2009. The AALL Executive Board passed the resolution to be sent out to OCLC in April 2009. The resolution suggested that "OCLC should eliminate the current proposal and write a new policy, involving the membership in the development of this policy." This statement consents with the ARL's recommendations. The resolution also quotes the Dr. K. Wayne Smith, the President of OCLC from 1989 to 1998, to stress OCLC member's participations in any major changes of its policy or practice.

"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

At the 2005 American Association of Law Libraries conference the Online Bibliographic Services Special Interest Section presented the program "Nabbing vs. Sharing: Z39.50 and the Ethics of Directly Importing MARC Records." The program was coordinated and presented by Georgia Briscoe, University of Colorado Law Library. Panelists were Barbara A. Bintliff, University of Colorado, S. Blair Kauffman, Yale and Bob Van Volkenburg, OCLC. The focus was on the ethical aspects or record nabbing/sharing rather than legal aspects and the speakers agreed that "free sharing, with permission on a limited basis is a good idea" with the caveat that "records retrieved should be uploaded to OCLC for others to use" (TSLL v. 31, no1, 35).

Because of the interest generated by the program, the OBS-SIS Executive Board formed the Special Committee on Record Sharing chaired by Patricia Callahan to study the issue and make recommendations. After surveys and discussion, the committee distributed a draft "Statement on Ethical Sharing of Electronic Records and Guidelines for Electronic Record Sharing" to the attendees at the special committee's meeting of the 2008 AALL conference. The document will be given to the AALL Executive Board this summer for review and possible endorsement before it is distributed. The committee also provided feedback for the resolution on the OCLC policy that was drafted by the OBS-SIS Executive Board and passed by the AALL Executive Board. The AALL Executive Board submitted the resolution to Review Board on Principles of Shared Data Creation and Stewardship in April 2009.

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