OCLC ASIA PACIFIC MEETING 3-4 SEPTEMBER 2012

Purpose

The OCLC Asia Pacific 2012 conference was held at the National Library of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on 3 and 4 September. This is a brief summary of the issues and papers most pertinent to Libraries Australia, including those where there will be a direct impact on future Libraries Australia operations.

OCLC presentations and news

Jay Jordan gave the OCLC overview. Points of interest were:

- In 1998, 38% of OCLC records were not in English. This year, 60% of records are not in English. This significant record growth is due the addition of very large datasets from Chinese university consortia. OCLC is currently assessing the demand for these records.

- At the time of the meeting, 63 libraries (ranging from small universities to large publics) were live in WorldShare, with 125 under contract, including 7 in Australia. New WorldShare libraries have reported significant increases in circulation and ILL requests for their collections, so it appears to be an effective way of making local collections discoverable (even if that means more business with the same number of staff).

- OCLC now has data centres in the US, Europe, Sydney, and Toronto. OCLC acknowledged that treatment of patron data under the US Patriot Act is a major driver for the international distribution of data centres.

- OCLC has recently gained ISO27001 certification for their data centres, the highest level of certification and difficult to achieve.

- A new protocol for sharing OCLC records has recently been announced. OCLC has recently struck a deal with Europeana (which has no restrictions on re-use of their records) so that OCLC can add records to Europeana and be confident that vendors cannot on-sell them.

- VIAF, linked data and the WorldCat identities service are gaining momentum. An example identity record for Patrick White (generated automatically from linked data, including Wikipedia ‘facts’) is attached at Appendix A.
• In conversation, Jay Jordan made clear that his brief to the WorldShare team is to ‘get it right in just one place outside the US’; Australia appears to be the top candidate for ‘right place’, with South Africa also in the mix.

Constance Malpas gave a data rich keynote address, with a strong emphasis on the growing knowledge economy in Asia. Points of interest included:

• The May 2012 ARL report on changing emphases in American research libraries, from thinking of collections as ‘products’ to ‘components of the academy’s knowledge resources’, with even the biggest and wealthiest research libraries unable to manage the costs of stewardship of all kinds of required materials.

• In 2006, 69% of OCLC holdings for non-North American imprints were in US research libraries, but the overwhelming majority of Asian imprints were held by just 5 research libraries and only 3 for East Asian. In other words, most known holdings were in the US, but they were also scarce. By 2010, only 42% of non-North American holdings were in US institutions, and many more imprints were known to be held by many libraries, thanks to the addition of big datasets from China and others. This continues the ‘flattening’ of research library collections, and raises the issue of whether these imprints need to be held so widely in a time when managing down print collections is a major business driver, and whether non Asian libraries can have confidence about long-term preservation of these collections in their home environments.

• Constance also analysed Asian imprints against the Hathi Trust database. Asian imprints form around 20% of the Hathi Trust corpus. Around 4% of Asian imprints are available digitally through Hathi. Although the number of Asian imprints in Hathi has grown, the overall proportion of Asian imprints in the digital corpus has been static for the last 18 months. There are very marked differences in each Asian country’s contribution to Hathi Trust (e.g. small proportions of Philippine and Malaysian content).

• Nevertheless, there is significant and growing overlap between academic print collections and the mass digitised corpus as represented in Hathi. The median duplication rate was 19% in June 2009, and is now 36%. By July 2012, the Hathi Trust was equal in both scope and volume to the top US ARL libraries.

• Constance used the example of National Taiwan University Library, which has contributed no content to Hathi, but now has 28% of its collection overlapping with the digitised Hathi corpus. Constance asserted that this was the equivalent of 5 kilometres of shelving space, with a potential cost differential of US$1 million dollars per annum between managing this collection in open stacks compared with off campus closed stacks.
• Constance also used the example of the ‘home’ libraries of the OCLC Asia Pacific Committee members, which collectively had a 24% median overlap between their print collections and Hathi. The Committee includes members from UNSW and the National Library of New Zealand. The National Library of Australia has a 15% overlap with the Hathi Trust, reflecting a high rate of rare and unique collections.

• Constance confirmed that the holdings of commercial companies competing with Hathi Trust – especially in China – are ‘dark’ to OCLC in terms of comprehensive analysis of overlap for eBooks and eJournals. This is a strong argument for encouraging Libraries Australia members to add records for eBooks to Libraries Australia; even if resource sharing is limited, adding holdings to Libraries Australia will support overlap studies in the future.

• Constance also looked at the concentration of print holdings in North America. 90% of monograph collections are concentrated in 12 megaregions, the distribution of holdings within these regions is very scattered, and more than half of these collections are managed by academic libraries. This was an interesting way of taking a ‘spatial’ view of where collections are concentrated, something that should be possible for the Libraries Australia membership, given that we collect postcode data. Postcode data could be further mapped against ARIA codes (Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia) to indicate the importance of strong resource sharing systems to Australians living outside major metropolitan areas.

• In 2010-2011, Asian universities formed 7% of the top 400 world universities; in 2012 that figure has risen to 16%. Constance drew a link between increasing reputation of Asian universities, improved network visibility of Asian research library capacity, increased reliance on shared service infrastructure in Asia, and the capacity for Asian library infrastructure to become a much more valuable part of global knowledge infrastructure.

Chris Thewlis spoke on Worldshare Management Services (WMS) and the Worldshare platform. Main points of interest were:

• Worldshare is essentially about moving from sharing data to sharing infrastructure, and about sharing a much wider set of data – acquisitions, vendor, and patron data, in addition to bibliographic data.

• WMS is supported by 600TB of online storage on 4,000 virtual machines.

• WorldCat is increasingly ‘fed’ by supply chains (e.g. publisher data, mass digitisation, eJournals). Because the WMS platform is open to developers, individuals and individual libraries can develop apps which take advantage of these supply chains. For example, a WMS public library developed an app which allows WMS libraries to check whether they hold items on the New
York Times best seller list, and if not, to use the acquisitions module to purchase directly through Amazon, with the module updating in real time.

• The WMS knowledge base – especially the ‘licence manager’ – looks as though it may be a considerable benefit to small libraries; local library staff do not have to maintain information about vendors and licence conditions although they can customise if they wish. OCLC have outsourced the development and maintenance of the knowledge base.

• OCLC Melbourne is staffing up to support its introduction of WMS to Australia. The office now has 22 staff (about the same number as the total Libraries Australia team, excluding IT staff).

• 12 libraries are currently implementing WMS in Australia, including publics, schools, and one small university college library. Most are former Amlib customers; some are brand new OCLC customers. 400 Australian libraries are currently using Amlib and although OCLC will maintain Amlib, it seems likely that the longer term plan is for many Amlib customers to migrate to WMS.

• Australian libraries implementing WMS must be members of Libraries Australia (this is an OCLC condition). As WMS records are added directly and in near real time to WorldCat, records will flow back to Libraries Australia (as is the case now for LA members choosing to catalogue directly to WorldCat). OCLC was expecting the first group of Australian WMS libraries to go live by the end of October. This will allow us to test whether the promise of WMS – easier addition, update and deletion of records and holdings to WorldCat, with records and holdings flowing back quickly to Libraries Australia – will be realised.

• One negative consequence of the rapid roll-out of WMS is that the Dublin data processing team is extremely stretched by the demands to migrate customers and their old databases to the new system. This appears to be a ‘blocker’ to a long standing Libraries Australia request to the Dublin team; to support addition of detailed serials holdings to WorldCat, to reduce the number of unfillable ILL and document supply requests flowing from WorldCat users to Australian libraries (especially the National Library of Australia).

• OCLC plans to move from VDX to WorldShare ILL, a significant issue for Libraries Australia Document Delivery and Te Puna Document Delivery. Analysis and scoping is only just commencing, with any change likely to be at least 3-4 years away. Resource Sharing staff are on top of this issue, and sent a set of specific questions about the service to OCLC several months ago. Since then, Marie-Louise Ayres and Rob Walls have met with National Library of New Zealand counterparts and agreed to work together to ensure
that the needs of national systems are taken into account in the planned new environment.

Richard Wallis (who spoke at an Innovation Conference at the National Library in 2007) spoke on linked data. The main points of interest for Libraries Australia were:

- The takeup of the British Library publication of its linked data version of its bibliographic data. By March 2012, the ‘raw’ interface was getting 9 million visits per month.

- OCLC is engaged in a number of linked data activities via WorldCat: Fast subject terms, DEWEY descriptions, VIAF linked data, LCSH, LCNAF were all launched experimentally in June 2012. An example linked data record for *The solid mandala* is at Appendix B.

- OCLC has also just made available a download file of 1.2 million resources (the most widely held resources with more than 250 holdings) under an Open Data Commons licence. Many libraries have downloaded the file and are playing with the data. OCLC have published attribution guidelines: www.oclc.org/data/attribution.html.

- Working on a linked data view of Trove data is on the Library’s longer term workplan, but cannot be resourced until at least 2013-2014.

**Country reports**

Presentations were made by representatives from the Malaysian hosts, China, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Thailand, the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia (as requested, a paper on Trove). Less formal notes about the contents of these presentations are available on request.

**Recommendation(s)**

The Libraries Australia Advisory Committee to note the report.

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Appendix A: White Patrick, 1912-1990; part of the entry for www.worldcat.org/identities/lccn-n79-122650

White, Patrick 1912-1990

Overview
Works: 682 works in 1,477 publications in 33 languages and 42,651 library holdings
Genres: Historical fiction Australian fiction Domestic fiction Adventure stories Love stories Adventure fiction
Roles: Editor, Lyricist
Classifications: p23 w68469, 823

Publication Timeline

Most widely held works about Patrick White
- Patrick White: a life by David Marr (Book)
- Patrick White by R. F. Bressendon (Book)
- Patrick White’s fiction by William Welsh (Book)
- Patrick White by John A. Weigel (Book)
- Patrick White by Brian Koeman (Book)

Most widely held works by Patrick White
The eye of the storm by Patrick White (Book)
44 editions published between 1973 and 2011 in 11 languages and held by 2,266 libraries worldwide
As the children, friends, and employees of a dying octogenarian gather at her bedside, a life of anguish and yearning is revealed.

Voss, a novel by Patrick White (Book)
183 editions published between 1967 and 2006 in 19 languages and held by 1,873 libraries worldwide
Jointly written and translated by Thomas Keneally and Nobel Laureate Patrick White. In 1973, Australian writer Patrick White was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for an extensive and monumental narrative art which has introduced a new continent into literature. Set in nineteenth-century Australia, "Voss" tells the story of a
Associated Subjects
