

## OCLC Serves Libraries around the Globe

OCLC now serves more than 34,000 libraries in 67 countries and territories; more than 4,000 OCLC user libraries are outside the U.S. Through participation in the OCLC cooperative, each week member libraries catalog more than 700,000 items and add over 40,000 unique records to the OCLC WorldCat database.

Recent international initiatives include:

- In 1999, OCLC came to an accord with the National Library of Australia that will allow the 1,300 Australian libraries using the National Library's new Kinetica resource sharing service to become full or partial OCLC members.
- In 1998, OCLC entered into an agreement with SABINET—a South Africa-based provider of online information services—that will enable more than 900 libraries in South Africa to participate in cooperative cataloging and resource sharing using OCLC systems and services.
- In January 1999, OCLC launched the Cooperative Online Resource Catalog (CORC) research project. Approximately 100 participating institutions in five countries are using a system developed by OCLC's Office of Research to extend the WorldCat collaborative cataloging model to the digital resources of the WWW. The research project is exploring the cooperative creation and sharing of metadata by libraries. Libraries use prototype software to contribute to a new database of electronic resource descriptions. Automated tools speed subject assignment, provide authority control, extract descriptors, and translate metadata from Dublin Core format to MARC.
- During a March 1999 workshop, the OCLC Institute guided 41 librarians from 18 countries in a highly interactive critical analysis of the foundations of global cooperative librarianship. The OCLC Institute, a recently created educational division of OCLC, promotes the evolution of libraries through advanced education and knowledge exchange. Recent international venues include Canada, Iceland, Jamaica, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom.
- In April 1999, OCLC and Pica Foundation announced the signing of a letter of intent that could lead to the establishment of a jointly owned organization to better serve the European library community. Pica Foundation, a cooperative not-for-profit organization based in Leiden, Netherlands, provides cataloging, interlibrary loan, and local and end-user services to libraries in the Netherlands, France, and Germany.
- OCLC has met quality standards and has received registration to ISO 9001, the International Standard for Quality Systems-Model for Quality Assurance in Design, Development, Production, Installation, and Servicing.

For more information, see <http://www.oclc.org/>, or contact:

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