Advancing exploration, innovation and community building for libraries, archives and museums
OCLC Research Collectively designing our future

Does your library catalog its collections? Borrow materials for users? Experiment with new tools and interfaces? If so, chances are that you are already familiar with OCLC® and its innovative library support services. There’s another part of OCLC that’s dedicated to projecting your work into the future and shaping information discovery and use to the expectations and benefit of your users—OCLC Research.

As one of the world’s leading centers devoted to exploration, innovation and community building on behalf of libraries, archives and museums, OCLC Research serves a global membership and supports the RLG Partnership. By leveraging community investment, program strengths and innovative research initiatives, OCLC Research delivers value to cultural heritage organizations around the world.

We do this by:

- monitoring technological developments and testing new applications of potential value to the community
- organizing and managing collective action
- working with a cohesive community of invested institutions
- representing the interests of libraries, archives and museums on international standards efforts

We work collaboratively with the community to:

- identify problems and opportunities
- prototype and test solutions
- develop consensus
- make our collective resources go further
- share products of our activities—papers, presentations, prototypes and open source software—freely to the larger community.

OCLC Research

OCLC Research is devoted exclusively to understanding the challenges facing libraries, archives and museums in a rapidly changing digital environment. Our multidisciplinary staff carries out research and prototyping that enhances the value of library services and improves the productivity of librarians and information seekers. Our focus is on advancing the state of the art, on improving the efficiency of bibliographic and library operations, and on prototyping new approaches. We are heavily involved in relevant standards activities and provide infrastructure support for several of these. We carry out applied research, publish regularly and engage with leading researchers and practitioners around the world.

For a list of our current prototypes, visit www.oclc.org/research/researchworks.

“The unique range of skills and perspectives in OCLC Research makes it very well-placed to work with libraries, archives and museums to address the opportunities and challenges of a research and learning landscape being reconfigured by the network.”

Lorcan Dempsey
OCLC Chief Strategist and Vice President, OCLC Research

Lorcan has overall responsibility for OCLC Research and is an influential leader in the library community. His blog on libraries, services and networks can be found at http://orweblog.oclc.org.
The RLG Partnership

The RLG Partnership is a unique, transnational group that coordinates the efforts of its affiliated institutions. RLG Partnership libraries, archives and museums are committed to exploiting technology to make their collections accessible for research. Through active collaboration, the RLG Partnership develops shared solutions, participates in innovative experiments, assists in the design and testing of new prototypes and reaches consensus on exciting new approaches to shared challenges. Partner institutions drive the continual development of an ambitious work agenda, setting the foundation for their collective success and enabling all partners to thrive in times of stimulating and provocative change.

For more information about our work agenda, visit www.oclc.org/programs/ourwork.

Joint Projects

OCLC Research is involved in collaborative work that includes a number of ambitious and transformative projects. Here are just a few:

- **WorldCat® Identities**: gathering details about people, places and organizations with a new tool in WorldCat that presents authoritative summaries of publications by and about them. Field-tested by research libraries.

- **Terminology Services**: exploring options for providing a unified environment that merges multiple thesauri and vocabularies, bringing librarians and archivists together with research scientists.

- **Special Collections**: providing venues to reach consensus on new approaches for managing, describing and improving access to your institution’s unique assets.

- **Registries**: developing and testing registries that will help in verifying copyright evidence, creating lists and supporting a wide range of Web services that aid in moving libraries to the network level.

- **Descriptive Practices**: providing venues and support for rethinking and renovating how and where this work gets done—locally, regionally or at the network level.

- **Data Mining**: extracting and analyzing aggregate data in new ways to support evidence-based decision-making for collections, services and systems.

“*The RLG Partnership has embraced its leadership role. It is acting purposefully to redesign the future for research-focused libraries, archives and museums. Together with OCLC Research, the RLG Partnership is working toward a transformed support environment for scholarship.*

James Michalko
Vice President, RLG Partnership

Jim provides the leadership, vision and operational direction for the RLG Partnership. He and other OCLC Research staff blog about the intersection of what’s happening at libraries, archives and museums at http://hangingtogether.org.
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OCLC Research currently comprises 50 staff located in the US: Ohio (Dublin—our headquarters), California (San Mateo), Colorado (Grand Junction), and Washington (Seattle); as well as in Scotland (Fife) and The Netherlands (Leiden).

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