

**Libraries Australia Advisory Committee paper  
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**OCLC Asia Pacific Regional Council Membership Conference  
Waseda University, Tokyo  
6-7 September 2010**

Under its constitution, the OCLC Asia Pacific Regional Council is required to hold one in-person membership conference each year. The first of these conferences was held in Beijing in September 2009 and attracted over 100 delegates from throughout the region with a particularly strong attendance from China and Taiwan. The second membership conference was held last month, on 6-7 September, at Waseda University in Tokyo. Again, the level of participation was encouraging, with a total attendance of 110 of whom around 60 delegates came from Japan. The overseas delegates were from Australia, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

The underlying theme of the conference was 'Libraries in Support of Research and Scholarship'. The program focused on Web-scale management services (or services delivered from the cloud), digitisation and access to digital resources, and digital preservation, and featured three keynote speakers: Jay Jordan, the President and CEO of OCLC, reporting on the cooperative's current plans and activities, and in particular its strategic directions in a global context; Victoria Reich from Stanford University Libraries speaking on 'CLOCKSS and digital preservation'; and Matt Goldner, the Product and Technology Advocate at OCLC, talking about Web-scale management services in a presentation entitled 'Cloud computing and libraries'. In addition, there were presentations from many of the countries within the Asia Pacific region.

As the host nation, Japan provided three speakers: Dr Makoto Nagao, the Librarian at the National Diet Library who talked about 'Exploring information in the Internet Age'; Makoto Nakamoto from the Waseda University Library who discussed 'Library cooperatives and consortia in Japan'; and Hiroshi Sogo, Group Managing Director of Kinokuniya Book Stores of Singapore, Pte Ltd, who spoke on the 'Distribution of academic information in the Asia Pacific region and the role of book stores'. The speakers from other countries included Dr Warwick Cathro, Assistant Director-General, Resource Sharing and Innovation, at the National Library of Australia who spoke on 'Public engagement with collections: the Australian experience with the annotation of digitised newspapers and other collections' and Steve Knight, Programme Director, Preservation, Research and Consultancy, at the National Library of New Zealand, who talked about 'Digital preservation: a view from the National Library of New Zealand'.

The Regional Council was also fortunate to have three members of the OCLC Board of Trustees, including its Chair, Larry Alford, and the President of Global Council, Jennifer Younger, in attendance at the meeting. Their presence gave the conference the ability to treat in some depth issues of governance and strategic direction.

The response by delegates to the conference was very positive and proved the efficacy of such meetings in communicating with the membership of the cooperative and conveying to OCLC governance and management not only local issues and priorities but also the particular needs of members within the Asia Pacific region. There are challenges in organising such meetings, given the geographical spread and ethnic diversity of the region. It is unrealistic to expect strong attendance from areas distant from the host country. And in Tokyo, for example, it was necessary to provide live sequential translation into English or Japanese for all presentations. But limitations of this kind do not detract from the value and central importance of the annual membership conference. Earlier this year the Regional Council experimented with the holding of local meetings, in Auckland and Canberra, in order to reach out to the membership in Australia and New Zealand. The Council proposes to continue this experiment by organising a similar meeting elsewhere, possibly in Southeast Asia, in 2010/2011.

To allow those who could not come to the meeting to have direct access to the proceedings of the Tokyo conference, all presentations were videotaped. These recordings will be available from the OCLC website later this month.

### **Recommendation**

The Libraries Australia Advisory Committee to note the report.

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