

Vision Statement for Consideration by PoCo, November, 2005

The PCC in Ten Years

The following paragraphs describe the most optimistic long term future I can think of for the PCC. In my view, we need to move aggressively in the directions specified for the next five to ten years, in order for the organization to have any future beyond that. If we achieve this kind of organization in ten years, it may be a kind of “son of” PCC, retaining some of the organizational patterns and valuing the history of the PCC, but engaged in activities quite different that those of the original organization.

Who will the PCC be in ten years?

The PCC will continue to be made up of a group of mostly large libraries, with national libraries and utilities being major participants. However, the ratio of U.S. libraries to non-U.S. libraries will be much different. It will be a much more international organization than it is today. Developing systems and models that internationalize the organization should be an important strategic direction of the PCC for the next few years. The organization must anticipate and contribute to the development of truly international bibliographic control systems, especially in the context of the World Wide Web.

In addition, there will also be some kind of individual membership or certification program acknowledging commitment to and ongoing contributions to PCC values and goals by individual people, most of whom will be members of member organization, but some of whom may not be. We will brand individual people, as opposed to individual records, as PCC resources.

What will be the PCC's purpose be in ten years?

The PCC will continue to pool resources of member libraries in the service of 1) managing libraries cost effectively and 2) facilitating access to the world's information resources.

What will the PCC be doing in ten years?

The PCC will be researching, developing, evaluating, and monitoring systems, models, standards, and services of bibliographic control and access. As is now the case, its primary resource will be the time and effort of experts within the member libraries.

A second range of activities of the PCC will concern the sharing, development, and expansion of bibliographic control expertise within member libraries and throughout the library and related communities. The PCC will be a potential

partner and resource for consultation valued by a wide range of businesses and organizations involved in information creation and distribution.

What will the PCC still be doing in ten years that it does today?

The PCC will still be active in the development of name and subject authority databases, but those authority databases will be different than they are today. Among these differences will be the accommodation of multiple related forms used to collocate and distinguish entities throughout the world. Contributing to the development of standards and arrangements for inclusive, rather than exclusive, authority control systems should be an important strategic direction of the PCC for the next few years.

As mentioned above, the PCC will still be involved in training, continuing education, and professional development for bibliographic control specialists. The PCC will still be active in the attempt to influence the culture of bibliographic control, as represented not only among the staff members of our libraries, but also in the broader library, publishing, and vendor services communities.

What will the PCC have stopped doing in ten years?

The PCC will have stopped branding individual bibliographic records. The distinction between PCC records and non-PCC records, as we now know them, will have disappeared.

The PCC may also have stopped counting contributions, at least contributions of individual bibliographic records. The emphasis on creation of individual bibliographic records by individual catalogers in PCC member institutions will disappear in recognition of the reality that most bibliographic records will in future be created by automated processes.

The CONSER and BIBCO programs, if they are still separate entities, will work in the context of designing, maintaining, and gathering information to be manipulated by those automated record-generating processes. In the mean time, it is vitally important to the future survival of the PCC that our programs move toward acceptance and appreciation of a widening range of bibliographic information forms, rather than toward more precise definition, and thus more contracting, of standards.

The PCC will have stopped emphasizing local catalogs as a focus of activity (this trend is already well established). Bibliographic utilities will continue to be important, but our view will be broadening to include the Internet and other information access systems.

Note: The strategic directions endorsed in this vision statement are:

1. *Internationalization*: of the organization as well as of bibliographic access standards and mechanisms.
2. *Broader definitions*: for membership and participation in the organization as well as for the databases and systems we use and help develop.
3. *More emphasis on developing people resources*: encouraging, growing, and shaping the expertise of individual members, staff in member libraries, and the broader information community.
4. *More emphasis on using people resources*: channeling, deploying, and leveraging an expanding range of expertise in the service of better library management and better service to our users.

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