

What's missing in the PCC?

I see a three-pronged role for the PCC: 1) programmatic, 2) educational, and 3) visionary.

1) *The PCC has successfully sustained its programmatic role to ensure access to information resources through "increased cost-effective creation, sharing, and timely availability and use of authoritative records". This model has served us well and can be adapted to serve us in the future.*

2) *The PCC has increasingly fulfilled an educational role through the assistance with "promulgation of standards and the development of education and training opportunities for catalogers". This has been an important role that will be even more needed in the future.*

3) The programmatic and educational roles of the PCC are well reflected in both its earlier and its current mission. However, even though the new statement "broadens" the PCC mission, it does not "elevate" it. *Neither statement conveys a sense of visionary leadership.*

A Mission is an expression of a Vision. It draws on one's beliefs. I expect the PCC to see its mission in terms of "leading" rather than "supporting" and "assisting". I envision the PCC having a mission that is more than a task-oriented agenda.

I envision the PCC to engage us in thinking about issues and to alert us to needed change.

I envision a PCC that assumes leadership through creative, out-of-the box thinking, questioning, and advocating.

I would like to see the PCC taking a position and lobbying for a cause it does (or should) believe in. A recent debate over vendor records produced for the Library of Congress that would be restricted from distribution outside of LC would have provided an opportunity to exercise this role. Developments that have the potential to disrupt the flow of cataloging copy to the nation by preventing individual libraries from contributing purchased records to the national utilities should be of concern to PCC. *I expect the PCC to provide leadership by representing our collective voice in such debates.*

*Judith Nadler
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Note: This strategic direction endorsed in this vision statement is:

Providing more active leadership in the information community, through direct, public advocacy.