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View from CLC

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View from CLC

During its first 50 years, ACL has offered its members many opportunities for professional growth, support, and resource sharing. The Christian Library Consortium (CLC) has served ACL libraries for the most recent 15 of these years. The purposes of the CLC “shall be to promote sharing of resources between institutional members, to provide other benefits (when possible), and to help sponsor the activities of the association by paying dues.”¹ Woodvall Moore first presented the concept for the Christian Library Consortium (CLC) during a meeting of the Association’s Liberal Arts College Section at the 1988 conference. In the mid to late-1980’s OCLC developed Group Access as a way to allow consortia and other groups to do interlibrary loans between full OCLC libraries (those that catalogued and also used the interlibrary loan system) and selective users (libraries that only used OCLC for interlibrary loan). Many of the larger ACL libraries were already on OCLC, but several of the small libraries, mainly Bible colleges, were not. Members of the Liberal Arts College Section felt they could provide interlibrary loan services to the smaller colleges by forming an ACL OCLC Group Access. At the 1989 conference Woodvall Moore presented the concept to the Bible Colleges Section and again to the Liberal Arts Colleges Section and received a positive response from both sections. A subcommittee worked with Paul Cappuzzello of OCLC and encountered both opportunities and challenges. The opportunities included possible access to a million unique records held by ACL libraries in OCLC. The challenge was that OCLC is a membership organization of libraries. ACL was an association of individual librarians. In order to develop the group access, ACL created an institutional membership category for libraries. Libraries

would pay annual dues, receive the benefit of a library subscription to *The Christian Librarian*, and join OCLC Group Access. Julie Moore, former director of Houghton College and now of Evangel University, suggested the group access name Christian Library Network. OCLC assigned the symbol CL@N. Woodvall Moore and Stephen Brown (then of Cedarville University, now of Indiana Wesleyan University, and one of the pioneers in the early years of OCLC) worked on the protocols for interlibrary loan. The ACL Board of Directors ratified the governing agreements in 1991. Invitations to join the group went out to libraries in April, 1991. The first membership business meeting was held at 1991 ACL Conference in Peterborough, ON.

The first 15 years of the OCLC Group Access have seen growth, challenges and change. There has been growth in membership from 47 charter member libraries in 1991 to 83 members in 2006. There has been growth in the benefit package. ACL has added the following benefits to the institutional membership package: 1) Subscription to *The Christian Librarian*, 2) Vendor discounts for Baker & Taylor, Emery-Pratt, Gaylord, and Highsmith, 3) Conference benefit for Regular membership (\$50) which allows the member library to send one non-ACL member from its staff to the annual conference at member rates. 4) Sustaining membership (\$100) allows the library to send all library employees to the annual conference at member rates. Most recently CLC offered discounts for the purchase of Ariel for document delivery. At the 2005 CLC membership meeting Ruth Martin, ACL Director at Large Member Services, proposed a document delivery project of sharing full-text CPI-E articles via Ariel. The agreement began in January, 2006 with 12 participating libraries.

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*Changes in
OCLC’s offerings
continue to provide new
opportunities to the
Christian Library
Consortium*

NOTES:

¹ Association of Christian Librarians. 2005-2006 ACL Membership Handbook (revised June, 2005), p. 18.

Retrieved February 10, 2006, from <http://www.acl.org/members/ACLMembershipHandbook2005.pdf>

Challenges have spurred changes in the consortium. The group access has experienced various name changes: ACL Group Access, Christian Library Association Network, Institutional Membership, and most recently Christian Library Consortium. Confusion between individual ACL membership and institutional membership resulted in the Executive Board changing the name to the Christian Library Consortium (CLC) in 1999. Changes in OCLC technology and ACL governance have required the CLC to adopt a team structure and rewrite its agreements in interlibrary loan protocols. An on-going challenge is the need to “tell the CLC story.” Over the years CLC leadership has publicized the group in *The Christian Librarian*, on the ACL discussion list, during presentations at annual conferences, and on the ACL web site. Another challenge is to provide resource sharing for the growing number of non-OCLC libraries that have joined CLC.

Non-OCLC members can contract with OCLC members to provide interlibrary loan. Northwestern College also has worked out an agreement to allow non-OCLC members to access their holdings.

Changes in OCLC’s offerings continue to provide new opportunities to the Christian Library Consortium. At the 2006 CLC membership meeting, Paul Cappuzzello of OCLC proposed OCLC Services for Groups, which includes a union catalog on WorldCat, collection analysis, resource sharing, and other services in a package for consortia such as CLC. OCLC now offers libraries one free batch load of holdings into WorldCat. The CLC Team is looking into how to offer the OCLC Service for Groups to its membership and hopes to provide new cost-saving benefits and avenues for resource sharing during the next half century of ACL. †

The Christian Periodical Index

ACL’s Longest Service Project

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When the Christian Librarians’ Fellowship (CLF) was first formed in 1956, those early librarians were not just focused on their own needs, but they were also concerned with the information needs of students at Christian institutions. Part of their earliest vision was the establishment of the *Christian Periodical Index* (CPI). And so began a project which continues to the present day. It has far exceeded anyone’s vision at the time of its creation. Who knew about the coming explosion of publishing – to say nothing about the Internet! Yet the mission of *CPI* – to provide access to English language articles and reviews from an evangelical perspective – has not changed in 50 years, though it has broadened its target group from the original CLF membership.

According to an article by Ruth Butler, the first editor of *CPI*, published in *The Christian Librarian* in May/August 1982, a committee was formed in 1957 with Ruth Butler, Miriam Waggoner and Dorothy Spidell as the original members. The first issue was published in 1959 for the Washington Bible College meeting of CLF and indexed seventeen periodicals for a cost of \$4.00 for members and \$5.00 for nonmembers. Ruth Butler says, “By 1960 the *Index* had been so successful that the organization accepted the recommendation of the committee and the first cumulated volume was published in 1961 for the years 1956-1960.” So the early indexers did some retrospective indexing in order to take the content back to the beginning date of the organization.