January 29, 2010

Michigan State University Libraries
Main Library Building W-110
East Lansing MI 48824-1046

Attention: Nancy Fleck

Dear Ms. Fleck:

As requested in your letter of December 22, 2009 we have prepared a subscription quote for Michigan State University Libraries to register their collection holdings in WorldCat for the purpose of lending and borrowing with other members of the Cooperative via the WorldCat data and platform services and WorldCat Resource Sharing.

As we outlined in our prior letter, this request is uncharted territory for the Cooperative as WorldCat has always been, and continues to be, a holistic service built by members’ contributions, funded by member support, and enhanced by numerous value-added processes and services performed by OCLC. As you know, these services include data management, continual record enhancement and stewardship services for Michigan State University Libraries’ 3 million holdings in WorldCat. These infrastructure and cooperative metadata management services include such activities as data stewardship, infrastructure and standards support, FRBR, controlled vocabulary services, WorldCat Identities, crosswalks between metadata formats, record enhancement, automated record delivery from vendor partners, MARC format updates, name authorities management, audience-level data work, mapping and visual data discovery, and a growing number of WorldCat APIs for linking to Web services, to name only a few of the shared services. The funding provided by libraries via the cataloging subscriptions maintains and advances this important infrastructure, and enables Michigan State University Libraries and thousands of other libraries around the world to do resource sharing, to discover and to create new value for libraries into the future, consistent with OCLC ‘s mission.

We currently do not have a subscription for a WorldCat platform, data and stewardship service other than the OCLC WorldCat Cataloging Subscription that Michigan State University Libraries cancelled last year. We have carefully reviewed Michigan State University Libraries’ request, historical and anticipated activity levels, holdings, use of the platform and other cost-sharing factors, along with the overall cost-sharing and funding philosophies of the Cooperative for the value of all member libraries. Although we do not have a long term subscription established to provide to you today, we are providing Michigan State University Libraries a subscription quote through June 30, 2010.
OCLC has been engaged in a global study for the past 18 months with a view toward providing more options and more services that will enable a growing number of libraries across diverse geographies to fund and share in the services of the Cooperative. We will announce one of these new pilot services shortly. We are confident that this pilot and the results of our global studies will allow us to provide Michigan State University Libraries with a subscription quote for July 1, 2010 forward, in the months ahead.

A subscription for Michigan State University Libraries for the WorldCat platform and data stewardship services via data loading through June 30, 2010 is $54,000. This quote is valid through June 30, 2010. As a full OCLC Cataloging Subscription member, Michigan State University Libraries have received over $250,000 in cataloging credits over the past five years as part of the OCLC Cooperative cost-sharing model. Because of the value of contribution to all the members of the Cooperative, Michigan State University Libraries will continue to receive original cataloging credits for original metadata contributions. These credits will continue to be based on actual volumes contributed in WorldCat. An estimate of credits for the subscription period based on prior volumes would conservatively approximate $23,000, resulting in an estimated cost of $31,000 or less, if original metadata contributions exceed the credit estimate.

The Michigan State University Libraries are a valued member of the OCLC Cooperative and we, and the OCLC community, look forward to continuing our work together to share resources, funding and support to advance libraries.

Sincerely,

Bruce Crocco
Vice President Library Services for the Americas

cc: Paul Getzen - OCLC
    Andy Bush - OCLC