

July 11, 2016

To whom it may concern:

Shortly after the 2015 annual meetings of the Music Library Association and the Music OCLC Users Group in Denver, MLA President Michael Rogan and (then) MOUG Chair Bruce Evans empaneled a joint task force with the following charge:

“Working with the Music OCLC Users Group, investigate OCLC's WorldCat Discovery Services to determine if it will be sufficient to meet the needs of music users. If the Task Force determines that WorldCat Discovery Services is not sufficient, it will recommend a course of action to petition OCLC to continue to provide the FirstSearch interface for WorldCat after December 31, 2015. It will also recommend a course of action to petition OCLC for specific improvements to WorldCat Discovery Services to meet the needs of music users.”

Attached is the final report of that task force. The boards of both MLA and MOUG have endorsed the report, and are hereby submitting it to OCLC to petition for said specific improvements to WorldCat Discovery Services.

OCLC's products and services form an integral part of the service apparatus for the vast majority of libraries represented within the music library community. Furthermore, the proliferation of WorldShare Management Services as an end-to-end solution for an increasing number of our constituent libraries means that our organizations must work with OCLC even more closely than we have in the past, in order to ensure reliable and robust access to music resources across the collective collection. The attached report is the latest manifestation of that ongoing effort.

Although music librarians do constitute a specialist community within the OCLC ecosystem, the users we serve form a broad cross section of library users from all walks of life. To wit, these suggested improvements will assist specialist researchers in their targeted searching, but so too will they improve recall, precision and comprehensibility of search results, creating an overall more transparent and efficacious discovery experience for *all users* seeking music resources.

We understand that development time is a precious commodity and that there are myriad competing priorities. While full implementation of these recommendations will certainly take time, we would hope OCLC would pledge and demonstrate its earnest and consistent effort towards them. We enthusiastically await OCLC's response.

Sincerely yours,



Michael J. Rogan
President, Music Library Association



Casey A. Mullin
Chair, Music OCLC Users Group