

Charge for PCC Task Group on Legal Status

February 26, 2018

Background and Issues:

The current nature of the PCC as an organization and its structure reflect its past rather than its future. That past was a stable MARC-dominated cooperative environment rather than the emerging post-MARC broadly collaborative environment. In the next few years, the PCC needs to act on several fronts identified in the current strategic directions, in the work of existing task forces and projects, and in the Linked Data Advisory Group's white paper. These fronts include: pilot partnerships such as with ISNI; the development and use of a sandbox environment in partnership with the Mellon-funded LD4P projects; and partnerships with ILMS vendors, bibliographic utilities, and national libraries to simultaneously maintain MARC production environments and develop post-MARC environments as production environments.

One key issue for the nature of the PCC is its legal status as an organization. As it is now, the PCC cannot have a bank account, cannot receive payments or grants, cannot write a check, cannot participate as a PI in a grant, and cannot partner with other agents as a peer. The PCC currently describes itself as an *effort*, "an international cooperative effort aimed at expanding access to library collections by providing useful, timely, and cost-effective cataloging that meets mutually-accepted standards of libraries around the world." The PCC also speaks of itself as a *community*. It is time for the PCC to explore becoming a legally recognized nonprofit entity that can act on its own. What benefits would result? What costs would accrue? How might such a change in PCC's legal status affect its relations with the Library of Congress, OCLC, and others?

Reporting to the PCC Steering Committee, the PCC Task Group on Legal Status is charged to:

1. Investigate how similar organizations meet these challenges.
 - a. For those that are legally recognized entities, what benefits and drawbacks are apparent?
 - b. For those that have not become legally recognized entities (e.g., Ivy Plus), what reasons drove that decision?
2. Evaluate the pros and cons of specific models for the PCC becoming a legally recognized entity.
 - a. Consider implications for financial accounts, governance structures, record-keeping.
 - b. Consider implications for the PCC's relationships with the Library of Congress, OCLC, ALA, and others.
3. Make recommendations to the PCC Steering Committee.
 - a. Rank options for the PCC's legal status and provide rationales.
 - b. Outline next steps.

Timeline: report to Steering by October 1, 2018.

Roster:

Carlen Ruschoff, Co-Chair (Director Emerita, University of Maryland Libraries)

Charles Wilt, Co-Chair (ALCTS Executive Director, *retired*)

Mary Case (University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, University of Illinois at Chicago)

Anne Gilliland (Scholarly Communications Officer, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

Marty Kurth (Associate University Librarian for Technical Services, Yale University Library)

Brian Schottlaender (University Librarian, University of California San Diego, *retired*)

Beth Picknally Camden, PoCo liaison (Goldstein Director of Information Processing, University of Pennsylvania Libraries)