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OCLC Community Center

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standardization bodies, funding agencies, best practices networks, and other projects in digital culture. In doing so, PREFORMA aims to create a network of institutions with common interests that will advance the definitions of requirements for open source tools and take part in their assessment.

Packed with information about standards and tools, this site is an excellent resource for learning about the complexities of preserving standard file formats and the necessity for gaining full control over the process of conformance testing for files intended for long-term preservation.

Rating: 4 out of 5.

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OCLC Community Center

Introduced in the summer of 2015, the OCLC Community Center is designed to give librarians one place to locate and share information on various OCLC products. According to OCLC, the Community Center "offers a place for library staff to connect online, share best practices, stay up to date on new product releases and contribute ideas to improve OCLC services" (https://www.oclc.org/en/news/releases/2015/201521dublin.html).

The Community Center is accessible from the OCLC WorldShare Platform (after signing in) by clicking the drop down next to **Need help?** in the top right corner and then selecting **Community Center**. Or users can access the Community Center directly via the Web at https://www.oclc.org/community/home.en.html, then clicking the **Sign in** button, and entering their username and password for the WorldShare platform. In both cases, The Community Center main page appears.

Currently, there are 11 communities: CONTENTdm, WorldShare Acquisitions, WorldShare Collection Manager, WorldShare License Manager, EZproxy, WorldShare Circulation, WorldShare Interlibrary Loan, WorldShare Record Manager, Tipasa, WorldShare Analytics, and WorldCat Discovery. Users are able to access the communities of the products in which they subscribe. OCLC plans on adding more communities in the future to accommodate other OCLC products.

Each community has a "page" for: Community Home, Discussions, News, Events, Enhancements, and Support & Training. Plus, some communities offer additional pages such as Downloads, Workflows, Insights, and Notes. The Community Home page includes a few of the most recent postings for each of the pages. Additionally, the Community Home page offers links, product insights, announcements, member stories, and a search box to locate content in the community. Unfortunately, the Community Center lacks a site-wide search.

Most pages display the postings with the most recent posting listed first. The Events page shows the happenings that will occur first by category. The Discussions and

Enhancements pages let users post their questions and ideas to the community. Some of the pages, such as Discussion and News, let users subscribe to notifications from the area in order to keep up-to-date with the community, without logging in. These notifications from the community are helpful, but function essentially as another email mailing list. To cut down on the number of subscriptions, one subscription per community may be more desirable to some users, especially since there does not appear to be much activity in some of the communities.

In general, the site is fairly easy to navigate by clicking on the "pages" links to access the content in the community. Clicking on a posting displays the posting and any replies. To return to the page content, users can click the page link again. Navigation links at the bottom of page let users review previous listings. The Communities link near the top of the page provides quick access to the other OCLC communities. This link organizes the various communities into categories. This breakdown would be helpful on the main Community Center page, but is not included.

One navigation problem is that clicking the Support & Training link takes users to the "Support & Training" area of the OCLC website. That is, users are no longer in the Community Center and need to use the back button to return to the Community Center. OCLC should either open a new tab, or provide a warning that users are leaving the site and a link back to the Community Center. Regrettably, the back button may not work if users have been inactive too long and were signed out by the system.

The titles of the communities follow the name of the various OCLC products. However, Connexion users may not realize that Record Manager is the cataloging community. This community is geared mostly to WorldShare Record Manager users and not Connexion users. Thus, the Community Center is largely ignoring one of its largest user groups.

Additionally, a very brief tutorial (less than 2 minutes) is available on the Community Center main page. A longer tutorial showing the features of the Community Center would be helpful and would assist in publicizing this site to more users. As the Community Center is a new site, it lacks much of the history of previous OCLC discussions and content. The OCLC listservs have been very helpful and responsive in the past. Users may be wary of adding another or changing the way they receive OCLC information, or may not have a WorldShare sign-on. At this point in time, the OCLC Community Center does not seem heavily used, focuses on the WorldShare platform, and lacks in-depth content in some communities.

Rating: 3.5 out 5.

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