



Library and Archives
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives
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Librarian and Archivist
of Canada

Bibliothécaire et archiviste
du Canada

Gatineau, Quebec
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Gatineau (Québec)
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AUG 25 2014

File Number: 26029

Ms. Eva Revitt
Librarian, MLIS
MacEwan University
10700-104 Ave., Room #7-273M
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4S2

Dear Ms. Revitt:

Thank you for your letter of August 13, 2014, expressing concern over the recent announcement that Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is proposing to contract with the Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC) to host Canada's National Union Catalogue (NUC).

Despite the fact that LAC's intention to enter into direct negotiations with OCLC was published a few months ago, this public procurement process is still far from over. Discussions regarding the replacement of the NUC are still underway with the Government of Canada's procurement arm, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC). While these discussions take place, constraints are placed on the information we are allowed to share publicly. Nevertheless, I wanted to bring a few matters to your attention that may answer some of the points you raise in your letter. Moreover, I am certain we will have several opportunities to discuss any remaining issues later on, and you have my assurance that LAC will communicate extensively with the library community as soon as we are in a position to do so.

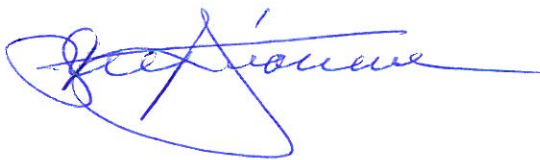
In 2012-2013, LAC consulted broadly with the Canadian library community concerning the replacement of AMICUS and the NUC. Several libraries were approached directly as well as many associations such as the Canadian Library Association, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, the Canadian Urban Library Council and the Ontario Library Association. Through these consultations, LAC learned that libraries were chiefly concerned with their ability to pay for an improved NUC.

Further to extensive research and analysis, we have determined that securing the services of a third-party provider that already has a viable hosted service for a union catalogue would cost significantly less than building a system in-house. This is even truer for OCLC since this worldwide library cooperative has already aggregated 85% of LAC's catalogue, as well as the catalogues from over 1 500 other Canadian libraries. This last figure is twice what Canada's current NUC contains. It is in this context that LAC will continue to achieve its mandate.

I will also stress that we currently have no contract in place. Rather, we are seeking the authorization to initiate negotiations. When we are given the approval to proceed, if it is determined that the service provider is not able to address any of our core requirements to our satisfaction, we will consider other procurement approaches or building a replacement system internally.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your congratulations on my appointment as Librarian and Archivist of Canada. I look forward to working closely with the Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians and other Canadian and international library organizations for our mutual benefit.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guy Berthiaume". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Guy Berthiaume