



February 4, 2010

Dear Orbis Cascade Alliance colleagues:

It is my pleasure to bring you up-to-date on the Strategic Agenda of the Orbis Cascade Alliance. Beyond current services such as Summit, courier delivery, electronic resource purchasing, NWDA, etc., this agenda describes the new collaborative activities that members are investigating together.

By all measures, the 2009 Strategic Agenda was a tremendous success. Engaging the efforts of 43 staff at 23 member libraries, this work culminated in a remarkable set of reports and yielded a refined agenda for 2010. In a very real sense, the Strategic Agenda process is a dialog in which various teams go forth and investigate, report back, and then help Council refocus the effort for the next round of investigation. The pace is brisk, and our emphasis evolves as investigations proceed. I encourage you to review the [reports generated last year](#), as well as the charges to new teams pursuing the [2010 Strategic Agenda](#):

1. Cooperative Collection Development

- EBook Team
- Collection Development & Management Committee

2. Regional Library Services Cooperative

- Next steps for RLSC will be discussed during the March 2010 Council meeting.
- "Heading WEST: toward a western regional storage trust"

3. Future of Integrated Library Systems

- Shared Integrated Library System Team
- Network Library System Task Force

4. Collaborative Technical Services

- Collaborative Technical Services Team
- Collaborative Technical Services Symposium

5. Digital Initiatives

- Digital Services Team

6. Discovery

- WorldCat Discovery Day
- Additional discovery efforts are to be announced.

We received more than 100 nominations for the Teams listed above! While this enthusiasm is fabulous, it made the job of selecting members and chairs very difficult. The Executive Committee wrestled with these appointments and worked to assemble a group of new participants and tested veterans while balancing skills, backgrounds, leadership roles, geography, type of library, and history of contribution. The resulting

teams are unusually strong, and we predict great results from their work. Team charges and membership are linked to the [Strategic Agenda](#), or you can quickly review the [membership of all teams](#).

Why are our member libraries engaged in such an ambitious effort at a time when budgets are shrinking and the challenges facing academic libraries so daunting?

The answer, of course, is that these challenges are precisely why libraries in the Orbis Cascade Alliance have decided to focus energy on collaboration: doing things better, faster, and exploring new services together. We learn from each other, realize economies of scale, and have the safety of shared expertise and vision as we go forward. This is an exciting time for higher education, and libraries are leading the way. In the Northwest we are very fortunate that together we have created a preeminent academic library consortium with an international reputation for innovation and success.

Whether you process Summit requests, purchase databases, pack courier bags, add items to the distributed print repository, or serve on one of the Teams planning our future, thank you for all you do. Our success is due to your creativity and hard work.

Stay tuned since there is much more to come!

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact your library director, [Alliance staff](#), or any member of the [Executive Committee](#).

Wishing you all the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dalia L. Corkrum".

Dalia Corkrum
Chair, Orbis Cascade Alliance
College Librarian
Whitman College