On March 9, 2015 the Canadian Library Association (CLA) submitted the below query to Library and Archives Canada (LAC) for response. CLA will share LAC's response with its members once received. CLA has been included in several roundtable discussions already with LAC and other stakeholders regarding this matter, the most recent of which took place on Monday March 2, 2015. The documentation from that meeting is posted on the CLA site under Advocacy. LAC has indicated that they would like feedback from the community and that they will continue to seek this. CLA will continue to report back to its membership as they receive more information.

A very special thank you to the Technical Services Network for putting together such a thoughtful and thorough document for submission to Library and Archives Canada.

CLA Technical Services Network (TSN) working group on LAC negotiations with OCLC
March 5, 2015

Overview
In December 2014, TSN moderators were contacted by a number of TSN members deeply concerned about LAC negotiations with OCLC about the future of AMICUS and wanted CLA to increase advocacy on this issue.

See press release from LAC, Nov. 28, 2014:
http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/news/Pages/2014/lac-replace-amicus.aspx

Objectives
TSN Working Group has prepared a short 3 page summary outlining the concerns of the Canadian technical services community. The document is a **request for information** as there are very few details in the initial press release (above) from Library and Archives Canada. Document presented to Jane Schmidt, CLA Councilor-at-large, on March 5th, 2015 to convey concerns to the CLA executive.

Members of the TSN Working Group
- Carol Rigby, Cataloguing, Editing and Information Management Services, Iqaluit, Nunavut / Maberly, Ontario
- Brian Stearns, Cataloguing Librarian, University of Alberta Library
- Mandy Deans Kassies, Head, Collections Services, Brock University Library
- Emma Cross, Cataloguing Librarian, Carleton University Library and co-moderator of TSN
- Christopher E. Carr, Cataloguing Librarian, Hamilton Public Library and co-moderator of TSN

Input also received from:
- Nunavut Library Association and working cataloguers and catalogue managers in Nunavut from Carol Rigby.
- L'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec Library Association (ABQLA) from Adam Baron, Director. ABQLA members did not have any comment on this issue.

Key issues for discussion

Access
- Canada's national catalogue (AMICUS) should be free and openly accessible for all Canadian institutions.
- AMICUS has to be fully accessible for libraries which are not OCLC members.
- Access should include the ability to freely download MARC records. Many Canadian libraries are small and have no budget for copy cataloguing subscription, e.g. to OCLC.
- The ability to freely download records includes Z39.50 service.
- Access should include no charge to contribute records to AMICUS. For example, libraries in Nunavut have talked to OCLC about contributing Inuktitut records to WorldCat, but libraries require a subscription in order to contribute.
- Libraries should not have to sign or click through any kind of license agreement to access AMICUS.

Transparency
- OCLC is not a public entity. If AMICUS was taken over by OCLC there is concern that a lack of access to information about factors involved in OCLC's decisions would result in a loss of freedom of expression about the direction of AMICUS.
- Grave concern of TSN members that if AMICUS is taken over by OCLC then it will operate behind a "closed door" and be inaccessible to Canadian libraries.
- Who would own the records in AMICUS if it was taken over by OCLC? Library and Archives has to retain the right to freely distribute records.
- Request to CLA to ask that the details of LAC negotiations with OCLC are made public with the opportunity for input from the Canadian library community. The LAC press release mentions "after consulting key stakeholders in the Canadian Library community …". TSN members are interested to know who was consulted and if there will be more consultation going forward.

Technology issues
- Accessible technology especially for remote parts of Canada with older internet access. Very sophisticated or image heavy sites do not work well in remote and rural areas with limited bandwidth and this essentially denies access to information.
- Unicode capacity and enabling syllabic fonts is essential for multilingual cataloguing, especially for non-roman scripts such as Canadian Aboriginal Syllabics but can also include Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, etc.

Canadian standards and policy

If AMICUS moves to OCLC, will LAC continue to maintain and use Canadian standards?
- Canadiana authorities
- Canadian Subject Headings
- Will LAC be able to determine cataloguing policy for Canada to maintain a sense of Canadian identity in the cataloguing of Canadian works in all their cultural and linguistic diversity?

Name authorities
- Canada is officially a bilingual country. This is a particular issue with regard to cross-referencing multilingual name points of access—LAC cross-references English and French versions of names, particularly for institutions.
- Additional concerns in Nunavut, where authorities often cross-referencing English, French and two forms of Inuit language names.
- Ensuring that established Canadian name authorities have precedence for Canadian persons.
- Will LAC stop creating new access points for Canadians? Will they integrate with NACO to create name access points within the LC list?

Subject headings
- Concern to maintain Canadian Subject Headings especially where these differ from LC (e.g. in treatment of aboriginal peoples).
- Maintenance of multilingual subject authority records with cross-references between LC/CSH and Repertoire de Vedettes-Matiere (RVM)
- Will OCLC now incorporate Canadian subject headings so that those can be validated?

Policies
- AMICUS currently permits multiple records for the same item which can accommodate different cataloguing preferences, e.g. multilingual standards. If AMICUS moves to OCLC, how will the issue of multiple records be handled?
- What about records for the same item in different languages. For example, AMICUS often has parallel records in English and French. In addition, Nunavut libraries, because of their use of syllabics instead of transliteration, will cover identical items in a different format from LAC, LC or OCLC records.