

OVERSEAS NEWS

OCLC Centre in China

Tsinghua University in Beijing has established an OCLC Service Centre to extend the FirstSearch service and other OCLC services to libraries and information centres in China. Tsinghua University puts emphasis on scientific research and technological development.

Phyllis B. Spies, Vice President, OCLC Member Services, Sales and International, emphasised the significance of the cooperative efforts for libraries worldwide:

"The community of OCLC libraries today is truly international and becoming more so each day," said Ms Spies. "Cooperation and collaboration among libraries on a global basis holds the promise of a new era of success for libraries and library users."

K. Wayne Smith, OCLC President and CEO, called the strategic alliance "a significant milestone in OCLC's history." Dr Smith will head a delegation to dedicate the OCLC Service Center at Tsinghua University in August.

Tsinghua University houses the network centre of the China Education and Research Network (CERNET), which is the Internet arm in China for educational institutions. Presently, 108 universities are linked on CERNET. The majority of the more than 1,000 universities and colleges in China are expected to be on the CERNET by the year 2,000.

Hwa-Wei Lee, Dean of Libraries, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, served as a consultant for OCLC to work with Mr Wang in developing the framework for the alliance.

Tsinghua University has set aside half of its main lobby in the university library for an OCLC training room, in which 30 Pentium workstations are connected to CERNET. FirstSearch training has begun at Tsinghua University and will take place throughout Chin in the coming months.

OCLC Online Computer Library Center is a nonprofit computer library service and research organisation whose computer network and services link more than 22,000 libraries in 63 countries and territories. More information is available at the OCLC Web site:

<http://www.oclc.org>

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