Slide 1:
Hello and this is my Ignite Presentation on OCLC and WorldCat, where "what is known must be shared."

Slide 2:
The Online Computer Library Center or OCLC is a library cooperative that links libraries in the United States as well as internationally. The goal of OCLC is to make library resources and information more widely accessible. OCLC is known by its trademark mission statement: "what is known must be shared."

Slide 3:
WorldCat is the largest online library catalog in the world. Created and maintained by members of OCLC, WorldCat contains the collection information of the libraries that are a part of OCLC. It is constantly being updated to provide high quality and accurate information.

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The Online Computer Library Center started out as the Ohio College Library Center in 1967. Based in Dublin, Ohio, it was originally intended to be a resource to help reduce library costs and share resources amongst Ohio academic institutions.

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OCLC was formed as a non-profit organization dedicated to making information accessible to the public. The founding members of OCLC, including Frederick G. Kilgour, its first director, kept the American Library Association ideals in the forefront as they were creating the cooperative.

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There were two main characteristics that defined OCLC from the start--the creators were determined to provide information to everyone equally and OCLC would pay its own way though revenue created from its services to the libraries in its collective.

Slide 7:
The Online Union Catalog, which would eventually evolve to become WorldCat and began its operation in August of 1971. In 1977, OCLC allowed libraries outside Ohio to join the cooperative. It was also around the same time when the name was changed to The Online Computer Library Center.

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The OCLC Office of Research was created in 1978. Continuing today as OCLC's Research, the service seeks to expand on the value of information institutions. Some of the most cutting edge research in the LIS field comes out of the OCLC's Research division.

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In 1978, OCLC had reached 45 states. The next year saw the first non-U.S. member as Canada joined the cooperative. By 1999 there were over 9,000 members in 76 countries. As of 2020, there are over 54,000 libraries in 100 countries that make up OCLC.

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All OCLC members contribute to what has been called the "heart" of OCLC, WorldCat. WorldCat primarily utilizes MARC records for ease of updating and creating new bibliographic records. WorldCat is being updated constantly.

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The Evolution of WorldCat began when its predecessor, known as the Online Union Catalog, was launched in 1971. This catalog was put to use via telecommunication links that connected the different libraries in the OCLC network.

Slide 12:
1979 saw OCLC introduce an interlibrary loan system within the Online Union Catalog, making it possible for participating libraries to request materials from other libraries. This has continued to evolve and interlibrary loan systems such as ILLiad are in use today.

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The Open WorldCat began in 2003. This made it possible to search through the WorldCat records through different internet search engines, such as Google. Worldcat.org was launched in 2006. This launch made WorldCat records available for general searching online through its own website.

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WorldCat Local was launched in 2007 and was used to show real-time status of materials in OCLC libraries systems and was used to make articles available for searching. Launched in 2014, WorldCat Discovery Services made it possible to search for specific articles in the WorldCat catalog.

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Why is OCLC and WorldCat important to the LIS field?

OCLC is utilized by the vast majority of libraries in the United States as well as internationally. Through these interconnected libraries, information and materials are available to all in WorldCat, which allows the public to search for materials from any library in the cooperative.

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OCLC also allows the opportunity for libraries to learn from each other as they are all joined by the cooperative. OCLC allows libraries to evolve on a large scale together by providing services to help make more efficient and dedicated libraries. The cooperative provides cutting edge technology to benefit the field.

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Because of the size and scale of OCLC, the cooperative is also able to better address issues in the LIS field and bring them to the forefront. Along with this, OCLC is dedicated to making information accessible and is conducting research to help information institutions evolve with the times.

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OCLC is behind community programs like WebJunction and the Geek the Library campaign. WebJunction is a site built to encourage continuous learning for library professionals and is free to use for all libraries. Geek the Library was a campaign to raise awareness about the many vital roles that public libraries play.

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Predictions: OCLC is looking to develop the concept of the library on-demand. This would be a network that provides unlimited access to a massive inventory of collections and would allow patrons to have the same kind of predictive technology available to them from their library that they can receive from Google or Amazon.

Slide 20:
OCLC is also working to increase the ability to identify materials and have those materials be delivered in a timely manner in an automated way. All of this along with a library on-demand is meant to make using the library systems easier for both patrons and librarians.

Slide 21:
OCLC and WorldCat work together to bring information to the public and to connect libraries and librarians around the world. OCLC stands by the statement: "what is known must be shared" and proves it everyday by being in the forefront of the LIS field. Thank you for your time and I hope you enjoyed this presentation.