FirstSearch

Search with a powerful tool that delivers quality information
OCLC’s FirstSearch® service takes the information searching process a critical step beyond everyday online searching by linking users to authoritative, trusted resources available in libraries around the world. At its heart is WorldCat, the world’s most comprehensive bibliographic database. Available to information seekers through libraries, FirstSearch offers more than 85 databases that help library users worldwide find the resources they need, with enhanced emphasis on items in your library’s collection.

Connecting library users to a world of information. FirstSearch helps libraries connect users to the information they need, whether it’s available in your library’s collection or in the collections of other libraries around the world.

WorldCat anchors FirstSearch with its millions of online records built from the bibliographic and ownership information of contributing libraries. Your users can connect to the materials in your library and in other libraries—both print and electronic—from WorldCat® records and article citations in many FirstSearch databases. WorldCat records in FirstSearch provide the fastest access to library ownership information.

Related OCLC programs and services make your collections more visible to Web and library users. Open WorldCat™ does so through popular Web sites like Yahoo! Search and Google. WorldCat.org™ does so through a search box that can be placed on virtually any personal or commercial Web site. The eSerials Holdings™ service similarly makes your electronic serials collection in WorldCat more visible to FirstSearch users.

Seamlessly linking your users to thousands of full-text articles, electronic books and journals, digitized special collections and more, FirstSearch provides an affordable way to give your users access to the world’s information.

**Designed for all of your users**

FirstSearch offers flexible search options and built-in assistance to point library users to what they need quickly and easily. It helps users identify items (both print and electronic) available in your library and in other libraries.

**Citation Help**

Nearly 50 FirstSearch databases include a “Cite this Item” link. When users select “Cite this item” in the External Resources links within records from these databases, they will see the citation for a selected record in the reference standard for five common styles: APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA and Turabian. These citations can be copied into reports and other research, making the documentation process easier.

**We value the FirstSearch interface, since it has numerous bells and whistles. Context-sensitive help is readily available for each search mode, function and feature.**

Two Library Journal reviewers, October 2006

**Wide subject coverage**

With FirstSearch, your library can offer databases covering a wide range of topics and formats. The FirstSearch Base Package includes WorldCat and other popular databases, including Electronic Books, WorldCat Dissertations and Theses and the Spanish-language CLASE/PERIÓDICA. You can easily add access to others, such as Alternative Press Index, MLA International Bibliography, The Philosopher’s Index and a complement of American Psychological Association databases. For authoritative full text, choose the Wilson Select Plus database. And, your users interested in genealogical research will find abundant resources in WorldCat to help them explore family histories and much more.

**Flexible purchase options**

Choose from three ordering options to suit your budget: annual subscriptions to databases you select, per-search (in blocks of 500 searches) for access to a variety of databases; or a combination of both. Ordering FirstSearch as a group or through your consortium can save you money—your regional service provider or an OCLC representative can help you decide which option is best for you.

In addition, through OCLC’s Web-based Online Service Center, individual libraries may quickly order either blocks of searches or database subscriptions—and manage their authorizations.
Linking integrates your resources

FirstSearch’s linking features let you fully integrate both your collections and other services.

Outbound links. From within FirstSearch, your users can link to your library’s online catalog or OpenURL server, other libraries’ Z39.50 catalogs and subscription services such as NetLibrary® eBooks and JSTOR archives. Setting up OPAC links in FirstSearch automatically enables links to your catalog from the WorldCat Web interface, exposing your collection to users on the Web.

Inbound links. If you subscribe to other information services like EBSCOhost, booksinprint.com, InfoTrac or ProQuest, your users can link from these to library ownership information in WorldCat as well as fulfillment options that include WorldCat Resource Sharing and document delivery from CISTI and Infotrieve.

Automatic linking within FirstSearch. Users have access to full-text and library ownership information that resides within FirstSearch databases through the linking of citations in one database to the full text in another.

Integrated Resource Sharing

Library users can initiate full OCLC resource sharing requests directly in FirstSearch, saving time and improving workflow. While in the FirstSearch staff view, your staff can enter shipping and billing information, lender strings, borrowing notes and other details.

More databases, more resources

Eleven former Eureka® databases are now available on FirstSearch: Anthropologic Index; Anthropological Literature; Anthropology Plus; Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals; Chicano Database; FRANCIS; History of Science, Technology and Medicine; Index to 19th-Century American Art Periodicals; Russian Academy of Sciences Bibliographies; Hand Press Book Database; and SCIPIO: Art and Rare Book Sales Catalogs.

Immediate answers for today’s online searchers

Your library’s users are accustomed to immediate response from their online searches, including those they conduct at the library. FirstSearch delivers immediate answers to meet and even exceed users’ expectations from a wide array of reliable resources, including:

- WorldCat, the world’s largest database of bibliographic information
- A suite of more than 85 databases from renowned authorities including the National Library of Medicine, the Modern Language Association and many others

In addition, FirstSearch offers immediate access to abundant original-source information:

- Full text of more than 2.2 million electronic journal articles
- More than 150,000 eBooks on OCLC’s NetLibrary platform
- A growing collection of NetLibrary eAudiobooks that are ready for download

FirstSearch also tells your users whether items they want are available in your library or in another library—and how they can get them quickly. Your users want answers quickly—and FirstSearch delivers.

Greater visibility for your collections

Since its introduction in 1991, FirstSearch has helped library users identify and locate resources in library collections. More recently, OCLC programs and services have made it considerably easier to enhance the visibility of library collections to much broader audiences, specifically those who begin their searches on the Web through popular search engines, popular bookseller sites, and Web sites that display the WorldCat search box.

By maintaining a subscription to the WorldCat database on FirstSearch and contributing library holdings information to WorldCat, you enhance the visibility of your library holdings to Web users through WorldCat on the Web. Information seekers who begin searching on selected search engines like Yahoo! Search and Google, as well as bookseller sites like Amazon.com, ABAA and others, can link to library holdings through “Find in a Library” entries they uncover in search results. The WorldCat search box—available from WorldCat.org for free download to public and personal Web sites—leads searchers to a public view of ALL WorldCat holdings and links to items in library online catalogs.

With WorldCat on the Web, your catalog is more accessible from the Web sites where many people start searching for information. Your collections are more visible, and therefore, more valuable.
FirstSearch—at a glance

Benefits
Highlight and promote your collections with your library’s name and logo plus icons in search results.
Save money by directing users to your own collections and borrowing from other libraries.
Make the most of your existing resources with linking capabilities between FirstSearch databases and between WorldCat and other services your library provides.
Link users directly to your library catalog from FirstSearch or popular Web resources.
Enjoy easy ordering for individual institutions through OCLC’s Online Service Center.

Features
Access to more than 90 million records via WorldCat, linked to most FirstSearch databases.
Access to full-text and full-image articles from thousands of serials.
Customization options through an Administrative Module, including control of full text and resource sharing at the database level.
Access through Z39.50-compatible local systems.

Related Services
Make your library more visible on the Web to users on popular Internet search, bibliographic and bookselling sites through the Open WorldCat program and the WorldCat search box.
Enable users to initiate full OCLC WorldCat Resource Sharing™ requests directly in FirstSearch.
Provide Web access to eBooks with NetLibrary.
Respond to and manage reference questions from users, and provide continuous reference support through the Web with QuestionPoint™.
Analyze your library or library group’s collection and compare it to others without requiring extensive staff, time or financial resources using WorldCat Collection Analysis™.
Keep holdings information for electronic serials up-to-date in WorldCat with eSerials Holdings.
Leverage cataloging investments your library group members have made with Group Catalogs.

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WorldCat

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