What is OCLC?

71,000+ institutions around the world working together to make libraries effective
OCLC is a worldwide library membership organisation established in Dublin, Ohio, USA in 1967. It was founded by a small group of libraries whose leaders believed that by working together, they could find practical solutions for sharing records and reducing information costs. Over the years OCLC has partnered with like-minded organisations from across the globe to become the largest research and library services enterprise in the world.

What began as a challenge to use newly available computer technology to automate the traditional library card catalogue rapidly became a collaborative revolution that now involves thousands of libraries across the globe. The OCLC world headquarters is still in Dublin, Ohio, with regional offices around the world including Australia, Canada, China, Germany, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. OCLC helps libraries to serve millions of users in more than 110 countries.

More than 71,000 libraries have used OCLC services to locate, catalogue, manage, lend and preserve library materials. Researchers, students, faculty, scholars and other information seekers use OCLC services to obtain bibliographic, abstract and full-text information when and where they need it. And OCLC and its member libraries cooperatively produce and maintain WorldCat, the world’s largest library catalogue. WorldCat holds information on more than 1.4 billion items in libraries around the world, and provides the foundation on which many of OCLC’s services are built.

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**Products and Services**

A broad range of services that reduce costs, enhance productivity and complement your cataloguing workflow. Recognised as best-in-class for cataloguing quality, OCLC services include integrated online cataloguing, custom and copy cataloguing and a variety of metadata services. OCLC will meet your needs whether you perform your own cataloguing, need additional tools to automate your current systems, or need to have it done for you.

**Includes:** Connexion, Dewey Services, CILLA, Batch Processing

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**Content and Collections**

eContent isn’t new to libraries. What is new is the array of choices available through the Web; occupying no shelf space, but offering a wealth of full-text content. We offer the most current frontlist eContent from the world’s leading publishers with a selection of more than 200,000 titles in eBook, eAudiobook, eJournal and database formats. OCLC also provides various online electronic collections and third-party databases. MARC records for nearly all OCLC content are included in WorldCat free-of-charge.

**Includes:** FirstSearch, NetLibrary

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**Reference and Discovery**

The common theme is “finding.” WorldCat.org is the best way for everyone to discover your library’s unique materials on the Web. Other, powerful tools for librarians and searchers to locate resources in the library, online and through virtual reference programs make your library more efficient than ever. Across the room, across campus, across town or across the world—OCLC reference and discovery services help pinpoint the best information faster.

**Includes:** QuestionPoint, WorldCat.org, WorldCat Local, TouchPoint
More than products and services—a commitment to research and community.

Beyond the global scope of its endeavors, OCLC’s involvement in library research and original programs and its commitment to community involvement make it a truly unique organisation. Research and development programs and insightful, timely publications and presentations make OCLC Research one of the world’s leading centers devoted to exploration, innovation and community building on behalf of libraries, museums and archives. Through awards, scholarships and fellowships, OCLC provides financial support to those beginning their library careers; to established professionals who excel in their endeavors; and to professionals working in rapidly developing countries. OCLC offers group training and technology support, with services dedicated to helping librarians address real issues they face every day. Our advocacy efforts raise the visibility and highlight the viability of libraries within their communities. And through membership reports, standards activities and cooperation with library leaders worldwide, we seek to improve the profession for all librarians, staff and users.

“...libraries must adopt new objectives. In particular, they must strive to participate with individuals in their cultural activities; passive, depersonalized service is no longer enough. Developments in modern, information-based society are forcing onto libraries this new objective of furnishing an individual with information when and where he wants it.”

Frederick G. Kilgour
President of OCLC from 1967 to 1980.
Participation

Membership brings together institutions of all sizes with a common goal: to improve access to the world’s information. It’s a global mission that touches librarians individually.

Benefits

Libraries that take full advantage of OCLC membership and services receive value, increase efficiency and support the future of librarianship. Among the benefits of membership:

- **Build and use WorldCat.** Share the world’s largest union catalogue. More than 1.4 billion pieces of information about who holds what and where.
- **Reduce costs.** Receive discounts on OCLC products and services.
- **Access deeper resources.** Gain access to rare and highly valued materials.
- **Tap 40 years of expertise.** Benefit from dedicated research and access best practices.
- **Influence the future.** Shape and guide not just OCLC, but the profession of library and information science.
- **Maximise your collections.** Make your collections available to the world through cataloguing, resource sharing, reference and beyond.

With more than 140 million records and 1.4 billion holdings, WorldCat is the world’s most comprehensive bibliographic database. WorldCat connects librarians, students, researchers and other library users to 4,000 years of recorded knowledge. It is the foundation for many OCLC services that lets your library process, manage, share and preserve information while reducing costs.

Learn more about WorldCat and watch new records enter the database live at: www.oclc.org/worldcat/

For further information contact your local OCLC office or e-mail: uk@oclc.org

OCLC helps libraries in more than 110 countries. Please contact us to learn more about OCLC in your part of the world.