WorldCat.org

Open your library to global possibilities

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Connecting Search

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WorldCat.org™ is a powerful discovery system that gives your library unparalleled visibility on the Web. It allows you to reach information seekers where many start their search, and elevates your library from a local service to a global presence. WorldCat.org builds on OCLC’s heritage—the vast WorldCat® bibliographic database—and positions the OCLC cooperative for the future with new tools that make library resources in WorldCat easier than ever to find, evaluate and share.

WorldCat is OCLC’s core database—the largest catalog of bibliographic data and library materials on the planet. With more than 1.4 billion holdings, WorldCat’s foundation is built and maintained on the strength of participation by libraries just like yours.

The primary goal of WorldCat’s Web presence is to get your library’s materials in front of knowledge seekers who rely on the Internet for information. When your library contributes holdings and metadata to WorldCat—and maintains a subscription to WorldCat on the OCLC FirstSearch® service—it is transformed from a local information provider into a global presence.

Opening a world of possibilities

WorldCat.org is OCLC’s destination Web site for access to library collections and services. It’s the place where any Web user can go to search the complete WorldCat database and link to online catalog records and services of participating libraries. And WorldCat.org is available in six interface languages: Chinese (Simplified), English, Dutch, French, German and Spanish.

The site also provides a variety of free tools such as widgets and apps for Facebook that further promote use of library resources and spread WorldCat search capabilities across the Web. Widgets are available for lists, keyword searches, and searches. Facebook apps such as CiteMe help users find materials to read and share with friends. There is even a WorldCat page on Facebook where users can show their support and become fans.

Add the keyword search widget to your Web pages

The keyword search widget is perfect for subject-specific Web pages and blogs. It’s customizable with specific search terms, so that relevant materials available through WorldCat.org are automatically displayed to site visitors.

Making headlines

Mashable: The Social Media Guide listed WorldCat’s CiteMe app in its article Back to School: 15 Essential Web Tools for Students.

“This Facebook application from the Online Computer Library Center lets you search the world’s largest library catalog by title, author, subject, or ISBN and get properly formatted citations in APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA, or Turabian style.”

Read more: http://mashable.com/2009/09/03/web-apps-students
Library info pages are like profiles for your library—plus, they show recent items added categorized by fiction, non-fiction, juvenile and non-juvenile.

WorldCat.org helps Web users worldwide find the information they need in your library’s collections and services. Here are just a few things users can do:

- Locate libraries that own materials they need by entering ZIP/postal code or country
- Evaluate with basic information such as cover art, title, author, language and format to help you decide if you’ve found the right resource
- Find additional formats or editions for the work (such as large-print, audiobook or translations)
- Use “Cite This Item” to obtain bibliographic citations in five common styles: APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA and Turabian
- Rate materials you’ve used and write reviews about them to help other searchers make informed choices.

Expanded resources discovery

Information seekers can search the content of all OCLC electronic resource services through the WorldCat.org, WorldCat Local and WorldCat Local “quick start” interfaces to locate materials provided by their local library or in other libraries around the world. As a result, users will be able to retrieve an integrated set of search results from these resources with locally available materials displayed first.

The first step toward full integration into WorldCat.org, WorldCat Local and WorldCat Local “quick start,” OCLC has made enhancements to the interfaces that simplify access to OCLC FirstSearch® databases, NetLibrary™ eBooks and eAudiobooks, Electronic Collections Online™ eJournals, ArchiveGrid® archival collection descriptions and CAMIO® (the Catalog of Art Museum Images Online).

These enhancements enable libraries that subscribe to these OCLC electronic resources to offer their users access to them through a new interface—at no additional charge. Existing interfaces for FirstSearch, NetLibrary, CAMIO and ArchiveGrid will continue to be available through at least 2011 to ensure a smooth transition for library staff and library users.

WorldCat Registry: data about your library

The WorldCat Registry™ is a free Web service that enables users to link directly from holdings information in WorldCat.org to your OPAC for item availability. Your profile data can be used in popular search sites, search widgets and Web services. Learn more: www.oclc.org/registry/about/.

WorldCat Mobile pilot: delivering WorldCat.org on smartphones

OCLC is piloting the WorldCat Mobile™ program, which brings WorldCat.org to hand-held communications devices like PDAs and smartphones, in the U.S., Canada, Germany, France, the UK and the Netherlands. Created in collaboration with Boopsie, Inc., a provider of software for cellular and mobile devices (www.boopsie.com), the WorldCat Mobile pilot enables users to find local library materials using their mobile phone. The application integrates with GPS and Google Maps to provide library locations and driving instructions. Learn more about the pilot: www.worldcat.org/mobile.

Rich resource mixture in search results

WorldCat.org search results include relevant WorldCat records for books, audio, video and other content formats, as well as a growing number of article-level records from GPO, ArticleFirst®, MEDLINE, ERIC, British Library Inside Serials and Elsevier. WorldCat.org also includes indexes for JSTOR, OAIster, PapersFirst and ProceedingsFirst.

Social networking tools

OCLC continues to add new social networking capabilities to enhance the WorldCat experience. These include:

- Personal profiles. Users can create personal profiles that include: e-mail addresses, occupation, interest, location, personal Web site and more
- User-generated reviews, ratings and tags
- List-making and sharing. Users can create and export lists of their favorite WorldCat items; lists can be categorized and shared with the rest of the WorldCat community
- RSS feeds.

Ready to participate? Here’s how

Contribute your metadata and holdings via one or more of the many OCLC services, including Connexion®, CatExpress®, Contract Cataloging, Batch Processing, WorldCat Cataloging Partners™, eSerials Holdings™ and digitization services.

Subscribe to the WorldCat database on FirstSearch so your library’s collections are visible on WorldCat.org.
Here are just a few examples of how people are using WorldCat.org social tools:

Create a list of materials for specific classes or topics. Academic libraries might include reserve readings, digitized images, articles and required textbooks from syllabi. Public libraries might include locally relevant materials, or ‘best new fiction’ suggestions. These lists can be watched, put out as an RSS feed and made available from a Web site, blog and/or courseware system.

Encourage students to make lists of possible sources to use as they research new topics. Then they can create instant bibliographies with WorldCat.org’s automated citations tool, using the ‘Cite this item’ link on the detailed record page.

Use the WorldCat app on Facebook to find good things to read, without ever having to leave a favorite social networking space. Then join the WorldCat Fan Club on Facebook and share it with friends. Search for “WorldCat” from within Facebook to get started.

Download and install the browser bar plug-in for all of the library’s public access computers; it is available at www.worldcat.org/toolbars/.

Use the WorldCat permalink when citing materials online. There’s no need to link to online vendors when you can point to a richer data source compiled by libraries around the world. Learn more at www.worldcat.org/links/.

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Related service

WorldCat Local: a single discovery and delivery experience

WorldCat Local™ connects your users to local, regional and global results through a single discovery and delivery experience. Built on the WorldCat.org platform, WorldCat Local is updated automatically with new functionality whenever the WorldCat.org platform is enhanced. WorldCat Local is the shortest distance between your users’ information and the resources you provide.

If your library collections are currently visible on WorldCat.org then you’re eligible for WorldCat Local “quick start.” WorldCat Local “quick start” provides a single search result that delivers resources from your library and libraries around the world.

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