Participating in WorldCat

Worldwide visibility for your collections
WorldCat is a global network of library-management and user-facing services built upon cooperatively maintained databases of bibliographic and institutional metadata. WorldCat enhances productivity across the full range of library workflows—from cataloguing to resource sharing to discovery and delivery—by intelligently reusing contributed data.

Libraries, museums, archives and cultural heritage centres from around the world contribute to WorldCat, which makes library resources more visible on the Internet by distributing data across a growing number of partner services and Web technologies.

WorldCat contains bibliographic information for more than 1.4 billion items available in 72,000+ libraries in 147 countries. These bibliographic records include content from more than 30 national libraries and represent 470 of the world’s languages. More than half of this content describes materials in non-English languages.
Participation in WorldCat yields many dividends

When you contribute cataloguing records to WorldCat, you enable your library to make effective use of many other OCLC services, including these:

- **WorldCat.org.** Offer anyone with Web access (inside or outside a library) access to the WorldCat.org search box, which makes it easy to identify items available in libraries nearby and far away.
- **WorldCat Local.** Build on WorldCat.org and offer fast, seamless access to the best delivery options for linking directly to electronic content, circulation activities and resource sharing.
- **WorldCat Resource Sharing.** Complete the ‘discovery to delivery’ cycle with tools that help information seekers obtain access to the items they find in libraries.
- **WorldCat Cataloguing.** Use WorldCat as a comprehensive source of cataloguing records that can be easily incorporated into your library’s technical services workflows.
- **WorldCat Collection Analysis.** Compare your collection to peer library collections; and use exportable, detailed reports to plan acquisitions more effectively and save the cost of building your own analyses.

Connect your catalogue to WorldCat

When you load your catalogue records into WorldCat, you have the ability to connect your library catalogue regionally, nationally and globally via the Web, giving library users access to items in your local catalogue. Searchers can reach your library not only through the WorldCat.org interface, but also from Google Book Search, Google, Yahoo! and other partner Web sites via WorldCat.org. In libraries that choose WorldCat Local, searchers see the easiest-to-get items first, and have access to WorldCat libraries worldwide.

Your institution can load its records into WorldCat in three ways:

1. Through online cataloguing
2. By contributing records to a regional or national union catalogue that in turn loads records into WorldCat
3. By using OCLC Batch Processing services.

OCLC Batch Processing

Whether or not your library has a national cataloguing solution, Batch Processing offers a cost-effective way to add original records to WorldCat and ensure the accuracy of your library holdings information and the OCLC Control Number. Its automated processes offer convenience and time savings—benefits that become more valuable as OCLC implements ongoing service enhancements.

Using Batch Processing to connect a library catalogue globally

The OCLC Control Number is used to connect records across systems, including group and national catalogues. Batch Processing can be used to attach an OCLC Control Number to catalogue records as well as maintain consistency and accuracy of the number.

Batch Processing and library holdings information

Unique library holdings information, also referred to as the OCLC symbol, is used within a catalogue record to identify a library as the holder of an item. WorldCat.org uses holdings information to get users from the Web to your library’s local catalogue and other services. OCLC Resource Sharing uses holdings information to identify a library as a lender of materials. Batch Processing can be used to quickly and easily add, maintain and delete a library’s holdings information as well as synchronise the information with WorldCat. In addition, Batch Processing can assign holdings information for individual members of a group or consortia to help ensure access to member collections.

The OCLC Control Number in your library’s catalogue records facilitates discovery of items in your collection through many OCLC services, which brings greater visibility for your library and its valuable resources. The control number is key to linking your catalogue records to a wide range of OCLC services that help users discover the riches in your collections.
With your records in WorldCat...

- Accurate holdings enable information seekers to find your library’s resources quickly
- Enhanced access to your resources leverages your collection investments
- Your library participates more fully in the worldwide library community.

WorldCat Registry: easy navigation to your catalogue

“Deep linking” is the means by which Web users arrive directly at an item record in your online catalogue from WorldCat.org or one of its partner sites, like Google Book Search. To ensure deep links to your individual catalogue records, your library information needs to be in the WorldCat Registry, which is a free Web tool that provides a single location from which any library can manage and distribute data that describes its institutional identity and services. Visit www.oclc.org/registry for information including a video tutorial.

- For individual libraries, it enables centralised information sharing with technology vendors, content providers, funding agencies and other libraries—and the data is always current.
- For consortia, it enables creation of master profiles that accommodate individual library profiles and maintains electronic service data that applies to the entire group.

OCLC Policies Directory: managing resource sharing requests from other libraries

Managing the number of resource sharing requests you receive from exposing your collections in WorldCat.org and its partner sites is easy if you publish your library’s policies in the Policies Directory. This free, Web-based directory documents the lending policies of thousands of libraries worldwide. Visit www.oclc.org/resourcesharing/features/policiesdirectory for more information.

- Use the directory information to choose potential lenders.
- Identify requests that your library cannot fill so that the requests bypass your library.

Initiating a Batch Processing project

To initiate your project of loading catalogue records into WorldCat, simply call or e-mail your regional OCLC account manager. Our staff will guide you and your technical staff through the process, including these key steps:

1. Setting up the process for loading your cataloguing records into WorldCat.
2. Establishing your library’s institution information in the WorldCat Registry.
3. Adding your library’s applicable policies to the OCLC Policies Directory.
4. Ensuring that the OCLC control number is maintained in each catalogue record.

WorldCat Registry: easy navigation to your catalogue

OCLC helps in more than 100 countries.  
Please contact us to learn more about OCLC in your part of the world.

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