

OCLC members' contributions have created the WorldCat network of services.
The more libraries participate, the more valuable the network becomes for everyone



Cooperative cataloging for the 21st century

In the 21st century, the values of cooperative cataloging will not change: OCLC® members will distribute costs, improve efficiency and make it easier for information seekers to find what they need in libraries around the world. What will change is the scale. More types of data will come in from more sources, and more cataloging services will be built on top of that data. And OCLC members will be there, making it happen.

New ways to participate

In 2009, OCLC members participated in an experiment to expand participation in the collective maintenance of WorldCat. The Expert Community pilot phase gave members with full-level cataloging authorizations more ability to improve and upgrade WorldCat® master records. This change was made based on feedback from the cooperative, and 1,690 members participated in the pilot phase, making improvements to 108,766 records. The new functionality that was implemented for the experiment is now available for continued use by all catalogers in the OCLC cooperative.

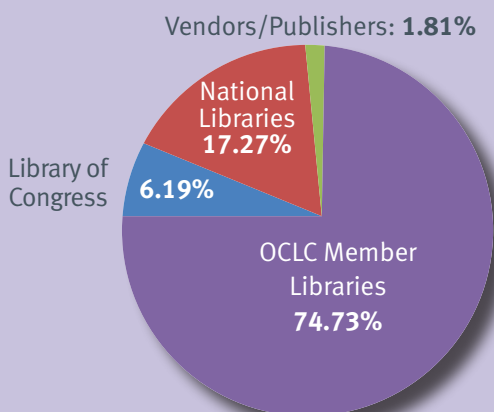
Another example of how OCLC members continue to build WorldCat is the astonishing growth of the WorldCat database through batchloaded contributions from libraries and consortia around the world that want their holdings represented on the WorldCat network. In 2009, 241.8 million items were cataloged by batchloading processes, greatly enriching WorldCat's value for researchers, students and citizens outside North America, and adding significantly to the proportion of WorldCat representing materials in languages other than English.

Depth, flexibility and value

It has been many years, actually, since WorldCat was simply a catalog of book data. For example, while the record for a work held in both WorldCat and the Library of Congress may seem quite similar, there are often many more versions represented in WorldCat. Specific data for paperback editions, audiobooks, Braille, large print and other media have been added, making cataloging easier and more useful for the other members who can then share those records. Metadata in hundreds of languages and scripts is also available in many cases.

The variety of cataloging sources for WorldCat also continues to grow. And while a single bibliographic record might not directly reflect its point of origin, the diversity of input methods ensures that more types of libraries, publishers and partners can contribute to the cooperative. This, in turn, means more records, less cost and better data. Records come into WorldCat from original cataloging and batchloading; from the smallest public libraries to the largest national libraries in the world; from publishers and an increasing number of partners who benefit from being able to go to a single, comprehensive source for library data.

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Sources of records in WorldCat

Libraries from around the world use WorldCat records to update and maintain their own catalogs. For many libraries, the majority of records found in a local catalog come from copy cataloging of records originally created by OCLC member institutions. While records come in to WorldCat from a variety of sources, the ongoing work of dedicated catalogers still provides the most valuable data used to keep collection information accurate, and make it visible and useful to information seekers.

More points of access

Once a record becomes a part of WorldCat, members can access it in a number of ways, depending on their cataloging needs:

- **Connexion**[®], OCLC's full-service, online cataloging tool is used to create and edit quality bibliographic and authority records and add metadata for libraries' CONTENTdm[®] collections.
- The **OCLC Z39.50 Cataloging**[™] service allows libraries to access WorldCat to search and retrieve MARC records for cataloging, edit records in local systems and set holding information.
- **CatExpress**[®] is a fast and easy tool for obtaining full MARC records and printing labels.
- **eSerials Holdings**[™] adds electronic serials holdings to WorldCat in an efficient and cost-effective way.
- **WorldCat Cataloging Partners**[™] deliver records directly in coordination with vendor orders.

Controlling costs

Original cataloging and authority work are among the most labor-intensive processes in which libraries invest. By sharing the effort to build WorldCat, the world's largest cooperative cataloging network, OCLC members drastically reduce the cost of cataloging and authority work for all. Most small and medium-size libraries are able to find cataloging copy for 98% or more of the items in their collections, thus minimizing the need for original cataloging and freeing highly trained library staff to focus on other library priorities.

In addition, for those items that do require original cataloging, OCLC provides credits to offset the costs involved with use of OCLC systems. To support and lower the costs of serials control, and on behalf of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, OCLC hosts the CONSER database and its cooperative program of serial experts who work together in an atmosphere of collegiality and trust. To support

and streamline efforts to build a large, shared name authority file, OCLC provides an infrastructure and services around its copy of the LC/NACO Authority File, enabling OCLC-NACO members to significantly reduce the costs of authority work for the library community while improving the catalog user's discovery experience.

WorldCat brings it all together

When you use OCLC cataloging and metadata services, your records are automatically added to the WorldCat database—the largest collection of bibliographic materials in the world. If it's been published, there's a good chance you'll find it in WorldCat.

Including your holdings in WorldCat enables you to make your collection available for resource sharing and discovery on the Web through search engines and at WorldCat.org. Users in your community and researchers around the world can discover the riches of the world's library collections more easily.

In 2009, OCLC members used WorldCat to catalog **273.8 million items**, add **30.9 million records** to the database and arrange **10.3 million interlibrary loans**. Because of that shared focus, OCLC FirstSearch[®] users were able to access WorldCat for **39.4 million reference searches**, and **143.1 million click-throughs** to the WorldCat.org[®] landing page resulted in **9.1 million click-throughs** to library catalogs and services.

The value of cooperation

The scope and flexibility of OCLC cataloging allows more libraries of more types and sizes to participate. This, in turn, leads to better cost savings and efficiency for all members. Working together, we will continue to expand opportunities for library participation in what is an example of true cooperation.

A day in the life of your metadata: A quick example shows how many normally disparate parts of a cataloging process can come together more efficiently when a library uses OCLC cataloging and metadata services.

Selection and Ordering

Materials selectors at your library can view and access notification records from multiple vendors in one system with **WorldCat Selection**[™]. There's no need to rekey data in Acquisitions, since MARC records from WorldCat are loaded into your local system. Materials get to users faster in an integrated, electronic workflow.

Collection Development

Language Sets are a fast, easy way to build world-language collections to better serve your culturally diverse community. Start, maintain or expand a collection of books, CDs and DVDs. Each set is created for your library with new titles in every shipment, and MARC records are included at no additional cost.

Acquisitions

Items you purchase through participating **WorldCat Cataloging Partners** receive record, holding and invoice information and call number labels from OCLC at the same time you receive the physical items from your vendor. This collaborative effort with materials vendors reduces the cost of cataloging for your library.

Cataloging and Physical Processing

Libraries use **Connexion**, OCLC's flagship cataloging service, to create and edit quality bibliographic and authority records, to help users find the materials they need faster, and share records with the entire OCLC cooperative to the benefit of libraries around the world.

The **Cataloging Label Program** lets users of OCLC cataloging products easily print labels for library materials.

Metadata Maintenance

Later, when OCLC contributors modify or enhance data online or through batchloading, you are automatically notified via **Bibliographic Record Notification** that records are ready to download.

A variety of other OCLC tools provide for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of records and holdings.