



## Library builds on existing, integrated platform to move beyond local catalog

*WorldCat Local becomes academic library's primary catalog*

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### Situation

*Collins Memorial Library serves the faculty, students and staff at the University of Puget Sound. Located in Tacoma, Washington, the university is a highly selective, liberal arts institution. Wade Guidry, Library Applications Administrator, shares the story of the library's WorldCat Local implementation.*

More and more, our Collins Library patrons rely heavily on resources “outside the walls.” As well, our collection is popular with other libraries, so we borrow and lend frequently. Regionally, we share materials through our academic library consortium, the Orbis Cascade Alliance ([www.orbiscascade.org](http://www.orbiscascade.org)). Orbis Cascade’s 36 academic libraries in Washington and Oregon share a popular union catalog known as Summit (<http://summit.worldcat.org>).

We wanted to move beyond our local catalog and offer our patrons a way to search not only our local collection, but also the larger collections to which they have access. In looking for a suitable solution, we wanted to use a platform that was already well-integrated with our primary borrowing and lending partners, including Orbis Cascade, as well as libraries whose holdings were not in the consortium catalog. Because Summit and ILLiad are built around the WorldCat® platform, WorldCat® Local seemed an obvious fit for us.

Not to mention, some databases have been integrated into WorldCat. So, WorldCat Local provides a search mechanism for subscription electronic resources, in addition to physical materials available at the local, regional and national levels.

### Solution

Thanks to the WorldCat Local “quick start” program, we were able to “test-drive” WorldCat Local prior to making any

### AT A GLANCE

- The Collins Memorial Library at the University of Puget Sound serves 2,600 students and a faculty of more than 200.
- The library collection includes more than 425,000 volumes that grows by 5,500 volumes annually. More than 20,000 of the titles are electronic.
- Access to the collection is offered through Puget Sound WorldCat, which includes access to the Summit catalog of nearly 29 million volumes at 36 academic libraries in the Orbis Cascade Alliance.

***“A 20-minute phone call...was the only ‘training’ we needed to become familiar with how to configure the interface options...”***

*Wade Guidry, Library Applications Administrator  
Collins Memorial Library, University of Puget Sound*

financial commitment. Although we never exposed our patrons to WorldCat Local “quick start,” the test-drive gave us a chance to validate the service internally. In addition, we talked with our consortium partners about their own experiences with WorldCat Local and received positive guidance. Among those we talked with were University of Washington, Willamette University and Eastern Washington University.

The actual configuration of the WorldCat Local service turned to be a pretty simple exercise. A 20-minute phone call with an OCLC® consultant was the only “training” we needed to become familiar with how to configure the interface options for our institution.

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We launched WorldCat Local as our primary catalog interface at the start of the fall 2010 semester. So, for our freshman class at least, the change wasn't something they particularly noticed, never having been regular users of our local catalog interface. For our other patrons, the impact of change was lessened by their familiarity with our consortium's WorldCat-based union catalog, Summit.

We also launched a new Web site at the same time, incorporating changes based on focus groups and heuristic testing, which we have integrated into ongoing assessment of Web and catalog usability. And for diehard fans of the old catalog, and for users of course reserves, our original catalog continues to be available.

To prepare for the switchover, we conducted training sessions over the summer with library staff on the new WorldCat Local interface. We also sent a heavy contingent of staff to a 'WorldCat Discovery Day' coordinated by the Orbis Cascade Alliance ([www.orbiscascade.org/index/program/](http://www.orbiscascade.org/index/program/)). Since then, our information literacy and library orientation classes have taught and promoted WorldCat Local as our primary catalog search tool.

We also put together a variety of successful materials, including bookmarks, handouts and Web pages (<http://tinyurl.com/22va7gh/>), plus our own 'Puget Sound WorldCat' logo. We know many of our students are visual learners—our logo attempts to show how the Collins Library in the corner of the Pacific Northwest is part of a larger "library," that of WorldCat.

## Results

On the whole, our users have taken the change in stride. In fact, we've heard relatively little from patrons about the switch. Patrons continue to be more vocal about what kinds of food they may want to bring into the library, or about building temperature, or which computers are too slow, than about the change in search interfaces. That's probably a good sign that the interface is working well and is not getting too much in the way of things.

We have had some feedback from upperclassmen and faculty—primarily about known-item searching. We continue to solicit feedback, and lots of students have commented positively on the 'one-stop' searching options.

At this writing, we've been on WorldCat Local for just a few months, so determining its full effect is difficult. We look forward to analyzing usage in the coming months to see what kind of behavioral or usage changes we might see.

The migration process took time and required patience. Not everyone embraced the concept, but we kept the focus on the user. What do our users want? How can we create a more streamlined search experience for them? How can we make finding materials more transparent? Staying focused on those issues has led us through what we feel has been a successful and worthwhile endeavor.

Learn more about WorldCat Local at [www.oclc.org/worldcatlocal](http://www.oclc.org/worldcatlocal).