

OAIster database of more than 19 million digital records

OCLC[®] has formed a partnership with the University of Michigan to provide continued access to open-archive collections through the OAIster database. Through OCLC services, visibility of these collections will be expanded to millions of information seekers on the Web.

Digital records from thousands of sources

OAIster is a union catalog of digital records that began at the University of Michigan, built by harvesting records using the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH). Today, OAIster is one of the world's largest aggregators of records, boasting more than 19 million items from more than 1,000 contributors. OCLC and the University of Michigan will work together to ensure ongoing access to the database.

Digital resources in OAIster include:

- Digitized (scanned) books and articles
- Digital text
- Audio files (WAV, MP3)
- Video files (MP4, Quicktime)
- Photographic images (JPEG, TIFF, GIF)
- Data sets (downloadable statistical information)

Web visibility through WorldCat.org

OCLC plans to provide access to the OAIster database through WorldCat.org later in 2009. WorldCat.org will provide greater visibility for OAIster collections to researchers on the Web. Access will continue at no charge through WorldCat.org.

Available on FirstSearch

The OAIster database will be available to subscribers of the FirstSearch Base Package (at no additional charge) beginning in early 2009. OCLC's upcoming offering of OAIster as a complement to the WorldCat[®] database will benefit researchers by bringing together access to these unique digital resources with those already in the WorldCat database. Within FirstSearch users will be able to search both WorldCat and OAIster simultaneously through the FirstSearch cross-database search feature.

For more information

Information about the OAIster database is available at www.oiaster.org.

Submit your questions about the OAIster database or inquiries about adding your collections to the database via e-mail at oiaster@oclc.org.