

# OAster and WorldCat: millions of digital resources



The OAster® database is a union catalog of 25 million records that represent open-access, digital resources from more than 1,100 information providers. OCLC offers several ways for information seekers to access these digital resources, including freely available WorldCat.org. OAI-PMH information providers are invited to use the WorldCat Digital Collection Gateway, a no-cost, self-service harvesting tool, to upload digital resource metadata to WorldCat.

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## Multidisciplinary resources

OAster was created by harvesting from open-access repositories worldwide using the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH). The records of the open-access digital resources available via OAster lead to a wide range of materials and include:

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

## Access to OAster

A freely accessible site for searching only OAster records is currently available at <http://oaister.worldcat.org/>.

These records are also accessible through the WorldCat.org™ interface and are included in search results for those libraries with WorldCat® Local and WorldCat Local “quick start.” Additionally, these records are available on the OCLC® FirstSearch® service to all Base Package subscribers, which provides another valuable access point for this rich database and a complement to other FirstSearch databases.

## Improve discovery of your OAster repository

OCLC has transitioned OAster harvesting to a self-service tool using the WorldCat® Digital Collection Gateway. The WorldCat Gateway is a Web-based tool that enables you to upload the metadata of your digital content to WorldCat. Offering more control over the metadata harvesting process, the WorldCat Gateway allows you to customize how your metadata displays in WorldCat.org and determine your own metadata harvesting schedule—monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually.

To increase discovery of, and access to your local repository, visit [www.oclc.org/gateway/getting started](http://www.oclc.org/gateway/getting_started).

## A worldwide repository

As your library, archives, museum or other cultural heritage organization continues to upload metadata through the WorldCat Gateway, you are contributing to WorldCat and creating a premier resource for the integrated discovery of open-access, digital primary source materials. OCLC's goal is to provide the infrastructure, services and support to help maximize the visibility and integrated discovery of digital content worldwide.

### For more information

Visit [www.oclc.org/gateway](http://www.oclc.org/gateway) or e-mail us at [digitalcollections@oclc.org](mailto:digitalcollections@oclc.org)