

Community

Research

Services



Connecting  
Libraries

# What is OCLC?

71,000+ institutions around the world working together to make libraries effective.



**OCLC**<sup>®</sup>

The world's libraries.  
Connected.<sup>™</sup>

**OCLC®** is a worldwide library membership organization established in Dublin, Ohio, USA in 1967. It was founded by a small group of libraries whose leaders believed that by working together, they could find practical solutions for sharing records and reducing information costs. Over the years OCLC has partnered with like-minded organizations from across the globe to become the largest research and library services enterprise in the world.

What began as a challenge to use newly available computer technology to automate the traditional library card cataloging process rapidly became a collaborative revolution that now involves thousands of libraries across the globe. The OCLC world headquarters is still in Dublin, Ohio, with regional offices across Australia, Canada, China, Europe, Latin America and the United States. OCLC helps libraries serve millions of users of all types of libraries in more than 100 countries.

More than 71,000 libraries have used OCLC services to locate, catalog, manage, lend and preserve library materials. Researchers, students, faculty, scholars and other information seekers use OCLC services to obtain bibliographic, abstract and full-text information when and where they need it. And OCLC and its member libraries cooperatively produce and maintain WorldCat®, the world’s largest library catalog. WorldCat holds information on more than 1 billion items in libraries around the world, and provides the foundation on which many of OCLC’s services are built.



## Products and Services

### Cataloging and Metadata

A broad range of services that reduce costs, enhance productivity and complement your cataloging workflow. Recognized as best-in-class for cataloging quality, OCLC services include integrated online cataloging, custom and copy cataloging and a variety of metadata services. OCLC will meet your needs whether you perform your own cataloging, use services to automate your current systems, or have the cataloging done for you.

**Includes:** Connexion, CatExpress, Dewey Services, Batch Processing, eSerial Holdings, WorldCat Cataloging Partners, OCLC Terminologies Service, OCLC-MARC Record Delivery, Language Sets.

### Content and Collections

eContent isn’t new to libraries. What is new is the array of choices available through the Web; occupying no shelf space, but offering a wealth of full-text content. We offer eContent from the world’s leading publishers, eJournal and database formats. OCLC also provides various online electronic collections. MARC records for nearly all OCLC content are included in WorldCat free-of-charge.

**Includes:** ArchiveGrid, CAMIO, FirstSearch, eJournals.

### Reference and Discovery

The common theme is “finding.” WorldCat.org™ is the best way for everyone to discover your library’s unique materials on the Web. Other, powerful tools for librarians and searchers to locate resources in the library, online and through virtual reference programs make your library more efficient than ever. Across the room, across campus, across town or across the world—OCLC reference and discovery services help pinpoint the best information faster.

**Includes:** WorldCat.org, WorldCat Local, Group Catalog, QuestionPoint.

## More than products and services— a commitment to research and community.

Beyond the global scope of its endeavors, OCLC's involvement in library research and original programs and its commitment to community involvement make it a truly unique organization. Research and programs and insightful, timely publications and presentations make OCLC Programs and Research one of the world's leading centers devoted to exploration, innovation and community building on behalf of libraries, museums and archives. Through awards, scholarships and fellowships, OCLC provides financial support to those beginning their library careers; to established professionals who excel in their endeavors; and to professionals working in rapidly developing countries. OCLC offers group training and technology support, with services dedicated to helping librarians address real issues they face every day. Our advocacy efforts raise the visibility and highlight the viability of libraries within their communities. And through membership reports, standards activities and cooperation with library leaders worldwide, we seek to improve the profession for all librarians, staff and users.

“To continue to be vital to society, libraries must adopt new objectives. In particular, they must strive to participate with individuals in their cultural activities; passive, depersonalized service is no longer enough. Developments in modern, information-based society are forcing onto libraries this new objective of furnishing an individual with information when and where he wants it.”

**Frederick G. Kilgour**

President of OCLC from 1967 to 1980.  
From “Evolving, Computerizing,  
Personalizing,” in *American Libraries*,  
February 1972.

### Resource Sharing and Delivery

Join an established network of more than 10,000 libraries with the OCLC services at the core of their sharing activities. Manage the flow of your materials more effectively when you create, track and share interlibrary loan requests with participating libraries and content providers. OCLC offers both stand-alone systems and integration with what you currently use, all with the goal of supporting local, consortia-level and global sharing.

**Includes:** WorldCat Link Manager, WorldCat Resource Sharing, OCLC ILLiad.

### Digital Collection Management

A range of options from OCLC supports the entire digital life cycle; from planning and processing to management, archiving and discovery of primary source materials. These solutions serve the needs of institutions just starting to explore digital possibilities as well as those that are committed to ongoing digitization and preservation efforts. Whether you have newspapers, PDF files, photographs, documents or any combination of materials, OCLC can provide the expertise and services you need.

**Includes:** CONTENTdm, OCLC Digital Archive, Digital Collection Gateway.

### Management Services and Systems

OCLC has a full range of management services that can improve the way you manage your entire library system. Library management systems can be implemented locally or on behalf of a group of institutions. Other services utilize the data in WorldCat to perform collection analysis, selection and other collection management activities at the network level. Whatever solution you select, OCLC works with you to help your diverse functions work together more efficiently and effectively.

**Includes:** Web-scale Management Services, WorldCat Collection Analysis, WorldCat Selection.

### Web and Data Services

Web tools deliver access to data and services on different platforms and through a variety of applications. OCLC's Web services support functions such as OpenURL resolution and consolidated access to multiple versions of published works. Direct linking provides centralized access to library ownership information and a cooperatively built repository of data about library collections and services. OCLC's collection of Web services will expand to support libraries as they move into an increasingly network-enabled world.

**Includes:** WorldCat Registry, xISBN.

### Participation

Membership brings together institutions of all sizes with a common goal: to improve access to the world's information. It's a global mission that touches librarians individually.

### Real benefits

Libraries that take full advantage of OCLC membership and services receive value, increase efficiency and support the future of librarianship. Among the benefits of membership:

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**Build and use WorldCat.** Share the world's largest union catalog. More than 1 billion pieces of information about who holds what and where.  
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**Reduce costs.** Receive discounts on OCLC products and services.  
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**Access deeper resources.** Gain access to rare and highly valued materials.  
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**Tap 35 years of expertise.** Benefit from dedicated research and access best practices.  
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**Influence the future.** Shape and guide not just OCLC, but the profession of library and information science.  
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**Maximize your collections.** Make your collections available to the world through cataloging, resource sharing, reference and beyond.  
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### An important return from your OCLC membership

With more than 190 million records and 1.6 billion holdings, WorldCat is the world's most comprehensive bibliographic database. WorldCat connects librarians, students, researchers and other library users to 6,000 years of recorded knowledge. It is the foundation for many OCLC services that lets your library process, manage, share and preserve information while reducing costs.

Learn more about WorldCat and watch new records enter the database live at:

[www.oclc.org/worldcat/](http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/)



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

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