

# Global library cooperation provides needed access to French-language records

*Bilingual cataloguing service to 37,000 Canadian students benefits from partnership with Bibliothèque nationale de France.*

## Situation

The University of Ottawa is a top-tier, research-intensive institution doing significant national and international research work. As such, in April 2010 it became the 125th member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL).

Like all ARL libraries, those at the University of Ottawa face very specific and rigorous challenges in order to meet the high standards demanded by faculty and students. In addition, the University of Ottawa's mission includes a commitment to maintaining a bilingual catalogue.

"Located in the capital of Canada, at the juncture of English and French Canada, University of Ottawa has a special commitment to promoting French culture in Ontario," says Mary Curran, Head of Cataloguing Services.

"Historically, though," she continues, "finding good, complete MARC record for our French and bilingual English-French materials has always been a challenge."

In the mid-2000s, the library began to experience a backlog, primarily because of the need to catalogue French titles from scratch. By 2008 the backlog was substantial, despite the fact that over 20 percent of materials came shelf-ready.

## Solution

The university library has been an OCLC® member since the 1990s, using both cataloguing and resource sharing services. "We joined," Mary explains, "because OCLC was and continues to be innovative and at the centre of cataloguing and bibliographic access."

***"OCLC always positions itself at the front of the class in providing futuristic solutions."***

**Mary Curran, Head of Cataloguing Services  
at the University of Ottawa**

"It was with great delight," she says, "that I read the 2008 OCLC press release announcing that OCLC had signed a letter of intent with Bibliothèque nationale de France (BNF) to add their French-language records to WorldCat®. Needless to say, we were ecstatic, and even happier when we heard that several other French-language Quebec institutions would be loading their holdings as well."

***"The presence of Bibliothèque nationale de France records in WorldCat has been a godsend to the University of Ottawa Library."***

**Mary Curran, Head of Cataloguing Services  
at the University of Ottawa**

## Results

The addition of BNF records substantially reduces the amount of time that staff spends cataloguing French records, which has allowed the library to greatly decrease its backlog.

According to Mary, "The many advantages of membership include: the millions of MARC records which cause squeals of delight to the cataloguing community and which are easy to contribute; international interlibrary loan; cataloguing and metadata services such as the WorldCat® Cataloging Partners service; and the gateway to cutting-edge research designed to make your library accelerate in the virtual reality of today."

She concludes, "The ability to quickly report our holdings is important for our students, of course. But international students also benefit from quick and accurate ILL. The innovation of OCLC staff also means that users can take advantage of the latest library apps such as the Google Books 'Find in a Library' program and the WorldCat mobile phone app."

For more information about how OCLC can work with your library, please visit [www.oclc.org](http://www.oclc.org) or contact us at [libservices@oclc.org](mailto:libservices@oclc.org).