

WorldCat Search API

The WorldCat Search API provides machine-to-machine access to an organized set of WorldCat bibliographic records and holdings. The holdings information provided with the API includes links directly to cataloging libraries' OPACs, so you can deliver WorldCat information seamlessly from within your library or museum's Web sites.

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Enhanced access to WorldCat

The WorldCat Search API provides access to WorldCat bibliographic records and holdings using the FRBR concepts to pull together various editions of the same work. The API provides access to the WorldCat databases from clients that can send RESTful URI queries with either the OpenSearch or SRU protocols and receives RSS, Atom, MARC XML or Dublin Core® responses.

The WorldCat Search API can be used to increase the number of links into library catalogs, and lets you provide WorldCat access to your users from within the library's Web site or applications.

Teaming with developers

Members of the OCLC Developer Network worked with OCLC to develop this API, and the Network continues to advise OCLC on ideas for additional Web services in the future.

Developers from more than 350 OCLC member institutions around the world already have access to the WorldCat Search API. Libraries, museums and other cultural heritage organizations are encouraged to create new WorldCat-related applications, mash-ups and widgets with the API.

Availability

The WorldCat Search API is available to all OCLC member libraries that contribute to WorldCat through an OCLC cataloging subscription, the Dutch GGC or as a CBS partner and are visible on WorldCat.org by having a subscription to WorldCat (on FirstSearch or by other arrangement). Others interested in the API can contact OCLC for more information.

Key features

- **Searches the WorldCat database of over 200 million bibliographic records** contributed by library staff worldwide.
- **Compatible with searches sent in OpenSearch or SRU CQL syntax:**
 - OpenSearch responses are available in RSS or Atom format
 - SRU responses are available in MARC XML or Dublin Core.
- **Provides a geographically sorted list of libraries that own each item in WorldCat**, including the institution name, location and a library catalog link with JSON options.
- **Ability to limit results to a single library**
- **Provides formatted citations** for resulting bibliographic records.

Request access to the API

Learn more about the WorldCat Search API at www.oclc.org/worldcatapi/

Read documentation and get sample code at www.oclc.org/developer/services/WCAPI

Register for e-mail updates at <https://www3.oclc.org/app/listserv> and select "WC-DEVNET-L."

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