

See WorldCat Search API examples in action:

www.oclc.org/worldcatapi/applicationgallery/

Additional OCLC Web Services to consider:

- WorldCat Basic API
- WorldCat Registry APIs
- OpenURL Gateway (part of WorldCat Registry)
- xID Services (xISBN, xISSN, xOCLCnum)
- Terminology Services

Join the OCLC Developer Network

The OCLC Developer Network seeks to create a space where developers and librarians can connect. It is designed as a collaborative, two-way communication group where members directly influence what OCLC Web Services are created and enhanced.

- Join the Developer Network by joining the **WC-DEVNET-L listserv** at <https://www3.oclc.org/app/listserv/>
- Read the Developer Network blog at <http://www.worldcat.org/devnet/blog/>
- Follow our tweet stream at <http://twitter.com/oclcdevnet>

WorldCat Search API

What it is:

Developer-level access to WorldCat—for bibliographic holdings and location data.

What it does:

Search WorldCat and retrieve bibliographic records for catalogued items, information about libraries that own the items and links to online catalogue records when available.

What you get:

- Information about books, video, music and more in WorldCat
- MARC XML content for a single OCLC record
- Geographically-sorted Library information (institution name, location, and an OPAC link) in requests for single records
- Records in standard bibliographic citation formats (APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA, and Turabian)

Who can use it: Qualifying institutions. Your organization must contribute to WorldCat and maintain a subscription to WorldCat on FirstSearch (or subscribe to WorldCat.org, for non-US).

Once qualified, you will be assigned a unique Key for you/your organization—a “wskey”

Usage limits: None

Query Protocols: SRU, OpenSearch

Record Formats: MARC XML (SRU), Dublin Core (SRU), Atom (OpenSearch), and RSS (OpenSearch). JSON option for lists of nearby libraries (holdings).

Where to apply for access: <http://www.worldcat.org/wcpa/content/affiliate/>

Documentation: <http://www.oclc.org/developer/services/WCAPI>

Why you love it: Enhance your local catalogue with related items to show nearby holding libraries. Build apps that lead users back to their local library.

How to use the WorldCat Search API



Access

WorldCat Search API requests require an access key, provided by OCLC. Include your assigned “wskey” parameter in each request to the API, as shown in the example links.

Getting A Search Result

Using OpenSearch

The simplest form of an OpenSearch request is:

[http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/search/openserach?q=\[search terms\]&wskey=\[your key\]](http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/search/openserach?q=[search terms]&wskey=[your key])

The complete pattern for an OpenSearch request is:

[http://worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/search/openserach?q=\[query\]&format=\[atom|rss\]&start=\[start position\]&count=\[maximum number of records to return\]&cformat=\[citation format\]&wskey=\[your key\]](http://worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/search/openserach?q=[query]&format=[atom|rss]&start=[start position]&count=[maximum number of records to return]&cformat=[citation format]&wskey=[your key])

Using SRU

The simplest form of an SRU request is:

[http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/search/sru?query=\[search terms\]&wskey=\[key\]](http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/search/sru?query=[search terms]&wskey=[key])

Retrieving a Single Record:

To retrieve a single record in MARC XML format, use a “content” request and an OCLC number or ISBN rather than a search. Content requests are sent with this URL pattern:

[http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/content/\[oclc number\]?wskey=\[key\]](http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/content/[oclc number]?wskey=[key])

[http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/content/isbn/\[isbn\]?wskey=\[key\]](http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/content/isbn/[isbn]?wskey=[key])

Requesting Formatted Citations:

The simplest formulation of a citation request includes just the OCLC identifier, and an MLA citation is returned:

[http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/content/citations/15550774?wskey=\[key\]](http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/content/citations/15550774?wskey=[key])

To specify a citation format, include a cformat parameter with one of these valid values: apa, chicago, harvard, mla, turabian, or all

[http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/content/citations/15550774?cformat=turabian&wskey=\[key\]](http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/content/citations/15550774?cformat=turabian&wskey=[key])

Specifying Service Levels:

The Service Levels available to a system that uses the Search API are controlled, in part, by a parameter added to each API Request.

The parameter name is servicelevel and it currently accepts two values, default and full.

If the parameter is not supplied in a request, the API system will apply the default service level.

Consult the Service Levels documentation to determine the differences in available indexes and displays between the two levels.

A request for a single record at the full service level:

[http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/content/8114241?servicelevel=full&wskey=\[key\]](http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/content/8114241?servicelevel=full&wskey=[key])

“Hello World” Example

The only dependencies for trying out this example are a host that supports PHP, a web server, and the Magpie RSS Parser available at <http://magpierss.sourceforge.net/>. Call the script with a “q” parameter that has your search terms, e.g., [http://\[host\]/\[script.php\]?q=\[search terms\]](http://[host]/[script.php]?q=[search terms]).

```
<?php
require_once 'rss_fetch.inc';
$wskey = "[your web service key goes here]";
$cformat = "mla";
$q = urlencode(htmlentities($_GET['q']));
$url = "http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/search/worldcat/
opensearch?q=".$q."&format=rss&wskey=".$wskey."&cformat=".$cformat;
$rss = fetch_rss($url);
foreach ($rss->items as $item ) {
    echo $item[content][encoded];
}
?>
```