



# WorldCat Basic API and WorldCat Search API

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Software Engineer, OCLC Research

- The Basic API, and an example
- The Search API
- The URI Evaluator
- Some example applications



- **Search WorldCat with OpenSearch and get RSS or Atom responses.**
- **Find books, video, music and more in the WorldCat database**
- **Get Titles, Authors, ISBNs and OCLC numbers**
- **Get records in standard bibliographic citation formats (APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA, and Turabian)**
- **Get links back to WorldCat.org for more information including geographically-sorted Library information**

# Searching, in the WorldCat Basic API



- **OpenSearch requests**
- **Keyword searches**
- **Relevance ranking**
- **XML responses**
- **RSS and Atom formats**

# What's OpenSearch?

- **A way for websites and search engines to publish search results in a standard format**
- **Developed by A9, an Amazon subsidiary**
- **Search terms are treated as keyword searches**
- **Results are returned in RSS and Atom XML formats**

# Basic API Overview



**OCLC** Developer Network

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## WorldCat Basic API

Developer-level access to WorldCat - for limited use only.

**STATUS:** Production

Search WorldCat and receive results for items in libraries. (WorldCat Basic API is a scaled-down version of the [WorldCat Search API](#).)

### What you get

- Information about books, video, music and more in WorldCat
- Information about authors, titles, ISBNs and OCLC numbers
- Records in standard bibliographic citation formats (APA, MLA, Chicago, and Turabian)
- A link back to WorldCat.org for geographically-sorted library information

### Who can use it

Non-commercial Use

### Usage Limit

1000 requests per day

### Query protocols

OpenSearch

### Record formats

OpenSearch

[Read the API Documentation](#)

Handouts

- [WorldCat Basic API cheat sheet \(PDF\)](#)

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The Basic API overview describes all of its features with working examples, links to other resources and more.

Find it at [www.oclc.org/developer/services/WCBasic](http://www.oclc.org/developer/services/WCBasic)

# Basic API in Action: RSS Feed in iGoogle

## WorldCat Search

 [The Oxford encyclopedia of American literature](#)

 [Nineteenth-century American poetry](#)

 [The Oxford encyclopedia of American literature.](#)

 [Mirrors and windows. connecting with literature.](#)

 [The Fireside Poets](#)

*The Fireside Poets: O. Besitzerspezifische Fußnote.* Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1924. Print.

 [The complete poetical works.](#)

 [The complete poetical works of Sir Walter Scott.](#)

# WorldCat Search API



If you send this ...	You can get ...
Search terms	Matching records
ISBN or OCLC number	A bibliographic record or a formatted citation
Postal code, or Lat/Long, or OCLC Symbol, or Country, or State/Province, and library type	Nearby libraries with OPAC links

- Find books, video, music and more in the WorldCat database
- Send searches in OpenSearch or SRU CQL syntax
- Get OpenSearch responses in RSS or Atom format
- Get SRU responses in MARC XML or Dublin Core
- Get MARC XML content for a single OCLC record
- Get geographically-sorted Library information
- Get records in standard bibliographic citation formats (APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA, and Turabian)

# Searching, in the WorldCat Search API



- **OpenSearch and SRU requests**
- **XML responses**
- **RSS, Atom, MARC21 XML, Dublin Core**

- A broad range of indexes, including a way to limit searches by holding library, for authenticated users
- Other users search a smaller set of indexes, similar to those in the WorldCat.org advanced search
- Sort by relevance, author, title, date, library count, and more

# For a single record



- **List nearby libraries**
- **Nearbyness - ip address, zip code, country, state/province, latitude/longitude**
- **Get standard citations ... APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA, and Turabian**
- **See other editions**

# What's SRU?

- **Search/Retrieve via URL**
- **Sort of Z39.50 for the Web**
- **Uses Contextual Query Language (CQL) to represent search terms, which makes it easy to form complex queries**
- **Supports sorting the results in various ways**
- **Also supports browsing indexes (though the Search API doesn't do this ... yet)**
- **Returns, in our implementation, Dublin Core or MARC XML records**

# Search API Overview



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## WorldCat Search API

Developer-level Access to WorldCat - for bibliographic holdings and location data

STATUS: Production

Search WorldCat and retrieve bibliographic records about libraries that own the items and links to online catalog records when available

### What you get

- Information about books, videos, music and more
- MARC XML or Dublin Core content for OCLC records
- Geographically-sorted library information (institution, name, location and an OPAC link) in request for a specific record (ISBN or OCLC Number)
- Records in standard bibliographic citation formats (APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA, and Turabian)

### Who can use it

Qualifying Institutions

### Usage Limit

Initially 20,000 queries a day. Can be raised by request

### Query protocols

SRU, Open Search

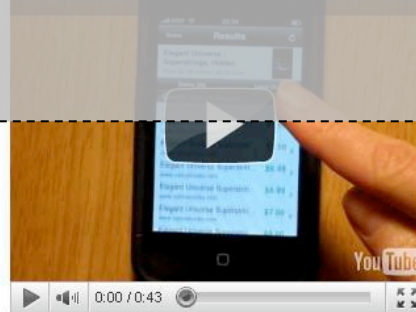
The Search API overview describes all of its features with working examples, links to other resources and more.

[Read the API Documentation](#)

Find it at [www.oclc.org/developer/services/WCAPI](http://www.oclc.org/developer/services/WCAPI)

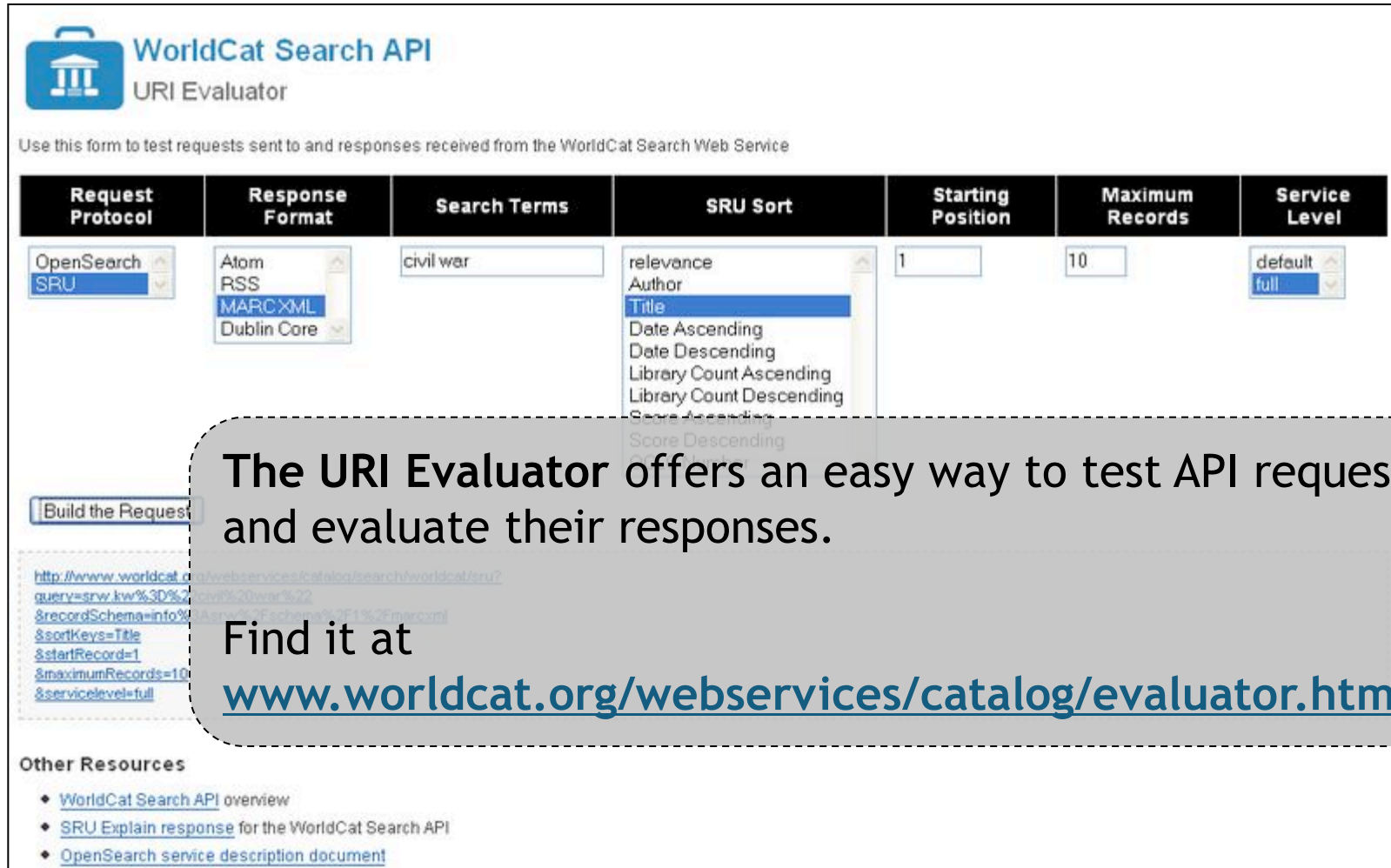
Featured Video

WorldCat libraries in RedLaser iPhone..



Handouts

# Test Requests and Responses



The screenshot shows the 'WorldCat Search API URI Evaluator' interface. It features a header with the OCLC logo and the title 'WorldCat Search API URI Evaluator'. Below the header is a brief instruction: 'Use this form to test requests sent to and responses received from the WorldCat Search Web Service'. The main area is a form with several columns: 'Request Protocol' (OpenSearch, SRU), 'Response Format' (Atom, RSS, MARCXML, Dublin Core), 'Search Terms' (civil war), 'SRU Sort' (relevance, Author, Title, Date Ascending, Date Descending, Library Count Ascending, Library Count Descending, Score Ascending, Score Descending), 'Starting Position' (1), 'Maximum Records' (10), and 'Service Level' (default, full). A 'Build the Request' button is visible. Below the form, a URL is generated: <http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/search/worldcat/sru?query=srw.kw%3D%22civil%20war%22&recordSchema=info%2Fascxml&sortKeys=Title&startRecord=1&maximumRecords=10&servicelevel=full>. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Other Resources' with links to 'WorldCat Search API overview', 'SRU Explain response for the WorldCat Search API', and 'OpenSearch service description document'.

The URI Evaluator offers an easy way to test API requests and evaluate their responses.

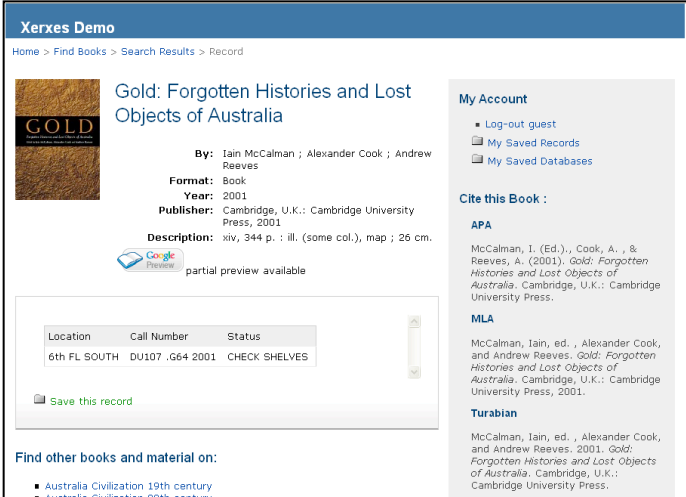
Find it at [www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/evaluator.html](http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/evaluator.html)

# Some Practical Uses



- **Extend searches to WorldCat's 100M+ records**
- **Format citations**
- **Add library links to search results**
- **Create search-based Atom and RSS Feeds**

- An interface application with a plug-in architecture
- Works with MetaLib, WorldCat, etc.
- Open source GPL license
- Developed by California State Univ. and Johns Hopkins Univ.
- WorldCat Xerxes demo:  
<http://xerxes.calstate.edu/demo/books>



**Xerxes Demo**  
Home > Find Books > Search Results > Record

**Gold: Forgotten Histories and Lost Objects of Australia**


**By:** Iain McCalman ; Alexander Cook ; Andrew Reeves

**Format:** Book

**Year:** 2001

**Publisher:** Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2001

**Description:** xiv, 344 p. : ill. (some col.), map ; 26 cm.

 partial preview available

Location	Call Number	Status
6th FL SOUTH	DU107 .G64 2001	CHECK SHELVES

[Save this record](#)

**Find other books and material on:**

- Australia Civilization 19th century
- Australia Civilization 20th century

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**Cite this Book :**

**APA**

McCalman, I. (Ed.), Cook, A. , & Reeves, A. (2001). *Gold: Forgotten Histories and Lost Objects of Australia*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.

**MLA**

McCalman, Iain, ed. , Alexander Cook, and Andrew Reeves. 2001. *Gold: Forgotten Histories and Lost Objects of Australia*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

**Turabian**

McCalman, Iain, ed. , Alexander Cook, and Andrew Reeves. 2001. *Gold: Forgotten Histories and Lost Objects of Australia*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.

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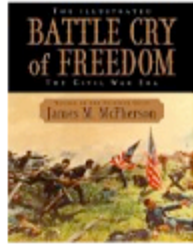

[Home](#) > **Searching Books & More : *battle cry of freedom mcpherson***

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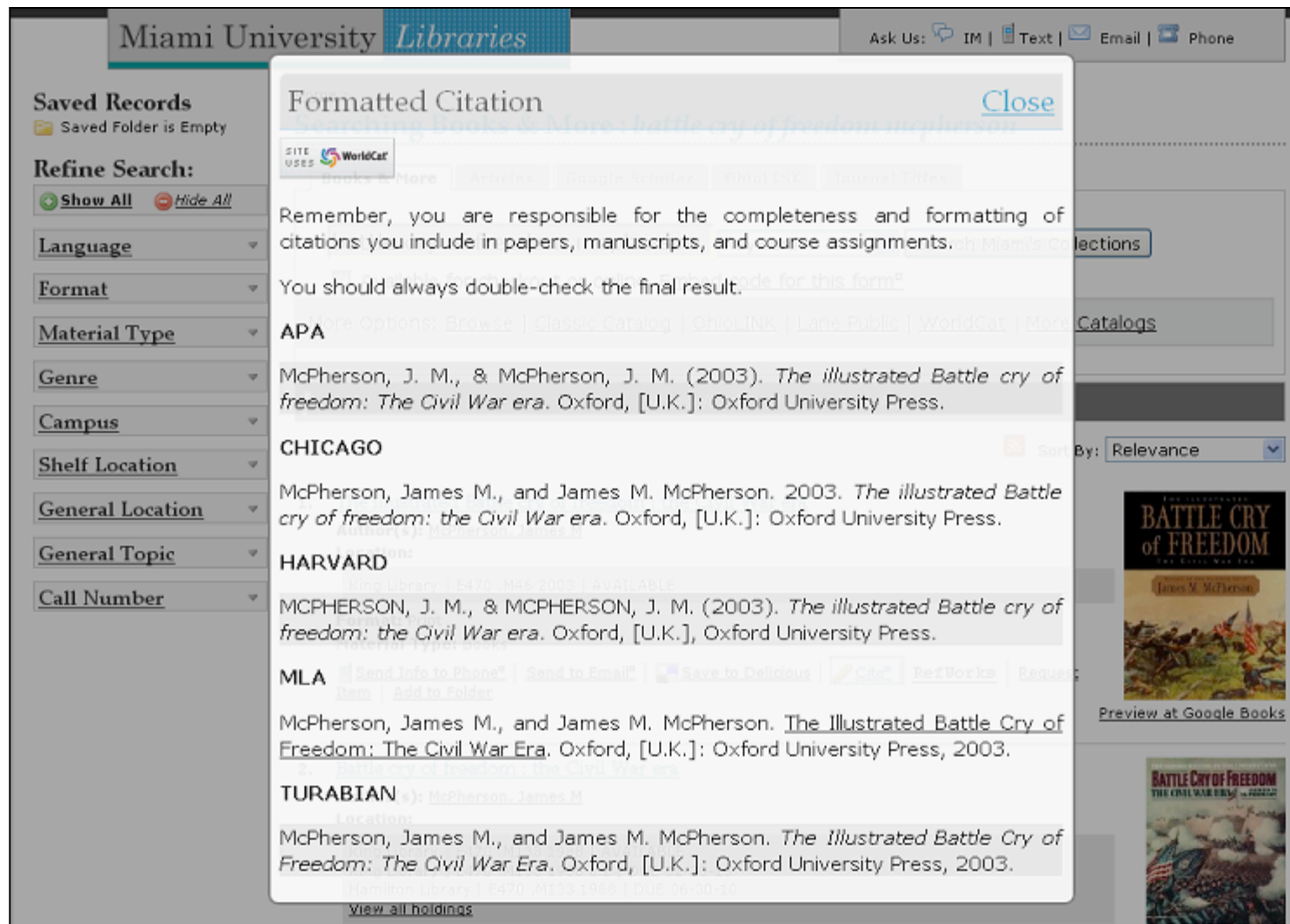
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**!** 4 results found in Books & More. Sort By:

- [The illustrated Battle cry of freedom : the Civil War era](#)  
**Author(s):** [McPherson, James M](#)  
**Location:** King Library | E470 .M46 2003 | AVAILABLE  
**Format:** Print  
**Material Type:** Books  
[Send Info to Phone](#) | [Send to Email](#) | [Save to Delicious](#) | [Cite](#) | [RefWorks](#) | [Request Item](#) | [Add to Folder](#)  
  
[Preview at Google Books](#)
- [Battle cry of freedom : the Civil War era](#)  
**Author(s):** [McPherson, James M](#)  
**Location:** King Library | E470 .M133 1988 | AVAILABLE  
King Library | E470 .M133 1988 c.2 | DUE 01-30-10  
Hamilton Library | E470 .M133 1988 | DUE 06-30-10  
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Remember, you are responsible for the completeness and formatting of citations you include in papers, manuscripts, and course assignments. You should always double-check the final result.

APA  
McPherson, J. M., & McPherson, J. M. (2003). *The illustrated Battle cry of freedom: The Civil War era*. Oxford, [U.K.]: Oxford University Press.

CHICAGO  
McPherson, James M., and James M. McPherson. 2003. *The illustrated Battle cry of freedom: the Civil War era*. Oxford, [U.K.]: Oxford University Press.

HARVARD  
MCPHERSON, J. M., & MCPHERSON, J. M. (2003). *The illustrated Battle cry of freedom: the Civil War era*. Oxford, [U.K.], Oxford University Press.


MLA  
McPherson, James M., and James M. McPherson. *The Illustrated Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. Oxford, [U.K.]: Oxford University Press, 2003.

TURABIAN  
McPherson, James M., and James M. McPherson. *The Illustrated Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. Oxford, [U.K.]: Oxford University Press, 2003.

[View all holdings](#)

# WorldCat Mobile: Links to nearby libraries



 **WorldCat®** Mobile Web Beta


Artistic photography

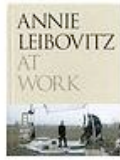
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- Simmons College
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- Boston Public Library**
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- Wellesley College
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