

ALA Annual

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WorldCat Search API

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OCLC™

The world's libraries.
Connected.

The WorldCat Search API



Used by applications, not by people

Searches with familiar protocols: OpenSearch and SRU

Returns results in XML

Formats XML in expected ways: RSS, Atom, MARC21 XML,
Dublin Core

The WorldCat Search API



For authenticated users, offers a broad range of indexes, including a way to limit searches by holding library

Other users search a smaller set of indexes, similar to those in the WorldCat.org advanced search

The WorldCat Search API



Provides many ways to sort results: relevancy, author, title, date, library count, and more

Includes library locations for individual records

Sorts library locations geographically (using a zip code, an IP address that is associated with a location, or a country)

Can reformat records as standard citations ... APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA, and Turabian

The WorldCat Search API



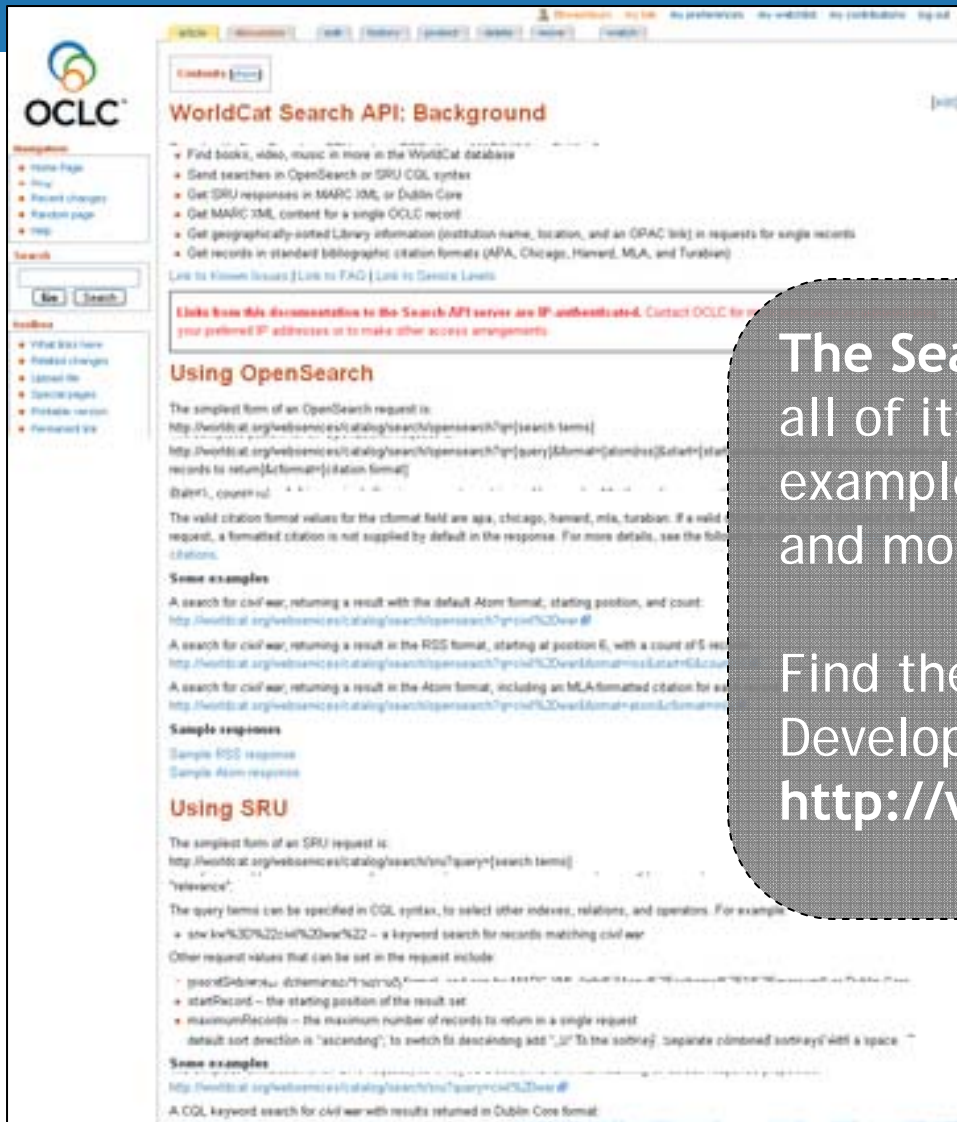
RESTful

Even when it's busy. REST in this case means "Representational State Transfer". Everything is sent along in the HTTP request. It doesn't call another protocol layer, like SOAP. It thinks in terms of resources (nouns) instead of commands (verbs).

Hackable

In a good way. Remove parts of the URL and get something useful in return. Guess at URL elements and discover new resources.

Implementers' Overview



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

Find the overview on the OCLC Developer's Network site at <http://www.worldcat.org/devnet/>.

Test Requests and Responses



WorldCat Search API URI Evaluator

Use this form to test requests sent to and responses received from the WorldCat Search Web Service

Request Protocol	Response Format	Search Terms	SRU Sort	Starting Position	Maximum Records	Service Level
OpenSearch SRU	Atom RSS MARCXML Dublin Core	civil war	relevance Author Title Date Ascending Date Descending Library Count Ascending Library Count Descending Score Ascending Score Descending OCLC Number	1	10	default full

[Build the Request!](#)

<http://www.worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/search/worldcat/sru?query=srw.kw%3D%22civil%20war%22&recordSchema=info%3Asrw%2Fschema%2F1%2Fmarcxml&sortKeys=Title&startRecord=1&maximumRecords=10&servicelevel=full>

Other Resources

- [WorldCat Search API overview](#)
- [SRU Explain response](#) for the WorldCat Search API
- [OpenSearch service description document](#)

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

WorldCat API \neq WorldCat Local



WorldCat Local is hosted and maintained by OCLC and supports seamless integration with local circulation and resource sharing services.

WorldCat Local includes all of the WorldCat.org UI features (faceted search results, personalization, reviews and lists, cover art, publisher data, etc.).

WorldCat Local search results include article citation records, while the WorldCat Search API is limited to bibliographic records.

Anatomy of a Search API Request



`http:// worldcat.org/ webservice/catalog/search/
worldcat/opensearch? q=civil%20war &format=rss`

Defaults allow for simpler URLs:

`http://worldcat.org/webservice/catalog/search/?query=civil%20war`

Start with the protocol

Add the host name

Name the type of service resource

Name the database to be searched

Choose the search protocol

Include search terms

Select the format of the response

An OpenSearch Response



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<rss xmlns:content="http://purl.org/rss/1.0/modules/content/"
xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom" xmlns:opensearch="http://a9.com/-/spec/opensearch/1.1/"
xmlns:srw="http://www.loc.gov/zing/srw/" version="2.0">
```

Here's the result size:

```
<opensearch:totalResults>253694</opensearch:totalResults>
```

```
webservice
<opensea
<opense
<opense
```

Here's an MLA-formatted citation:

```
<atom
webse
<open
```

Here's a title of one record in the result:

```
<title>
```

The red badge of courage : an episode of the American Civil War

```
</title>
```

He

```
<lin
```

```
<cont
&lt;u&g
New York
</item>
```

```
</content:encoded>
```

at.org/

Binder.

An SRU Response



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<?xml-stylesheet type="text/xsl" href="/webservices/catalog/xsl/searchRetrieveResponse.xsl"?>
<searchRetrieveResponse xmlns="http://www.loc.gov/z39.50-2004/srw/"
```

Here's the result size:

```
<numberOfRecords>267468</numberOfRecords>
```

```
<recordPacking>xml</recordPacking>
<recordData>
<record xmlns="http://www.loc.gov/MARC21/slim"
<controlfield tag="001">8114241</controlfield>
```

Here are ISBNs:

```
<datafield tag="020" ind1=" " ind2=" "><subfield tag="a" code="a">0393013456</subfield></datafield>
<datafield tag="020" ind1=" " ind2=" "><subfield tag="a" code="a">9780393013450</subfield></datafield>
<datafield tag="020" ind1=" " ind2=" "><subfield tag="a" code="a">0380641135 (pbk.)</subfield></datafield>
<datafield tag="020" ind1=" " ind2=" "><subfield tag="a" code="a">9780380641130 (pbk.)</subfield></datafield>
```

Library Locations



Here's the OCLC Symbol:

```
<institutionIdentifier><value>ORO</value>
```

```
</typeOrSource>
```

```
<pointer>http://worldcat.org/registry/institutions/</pointer>
```

```
</typeOrSource>
```

```
</institutionIdentifier>
```

```
</
```

Here's the library catalog URL:

```
<electronicAddress> <text>
```

```
http://www.worldcat.org/wcpa/oclc/15550774?page=frame&url=http%3A%2F%2Flibrary.cityoforange.org%2Fuh  
tbin%2Fcgisirsi.exe%2Fx%2F0%2F0%2F5%2F%3Fsearchdata1%  
3D0195038630&title=Orange+Public+Library&link  
type=opac&detail=ORO%3AOrange+Public+Library%3A  
Public&app=wcapi&id=132.174.183.38
```

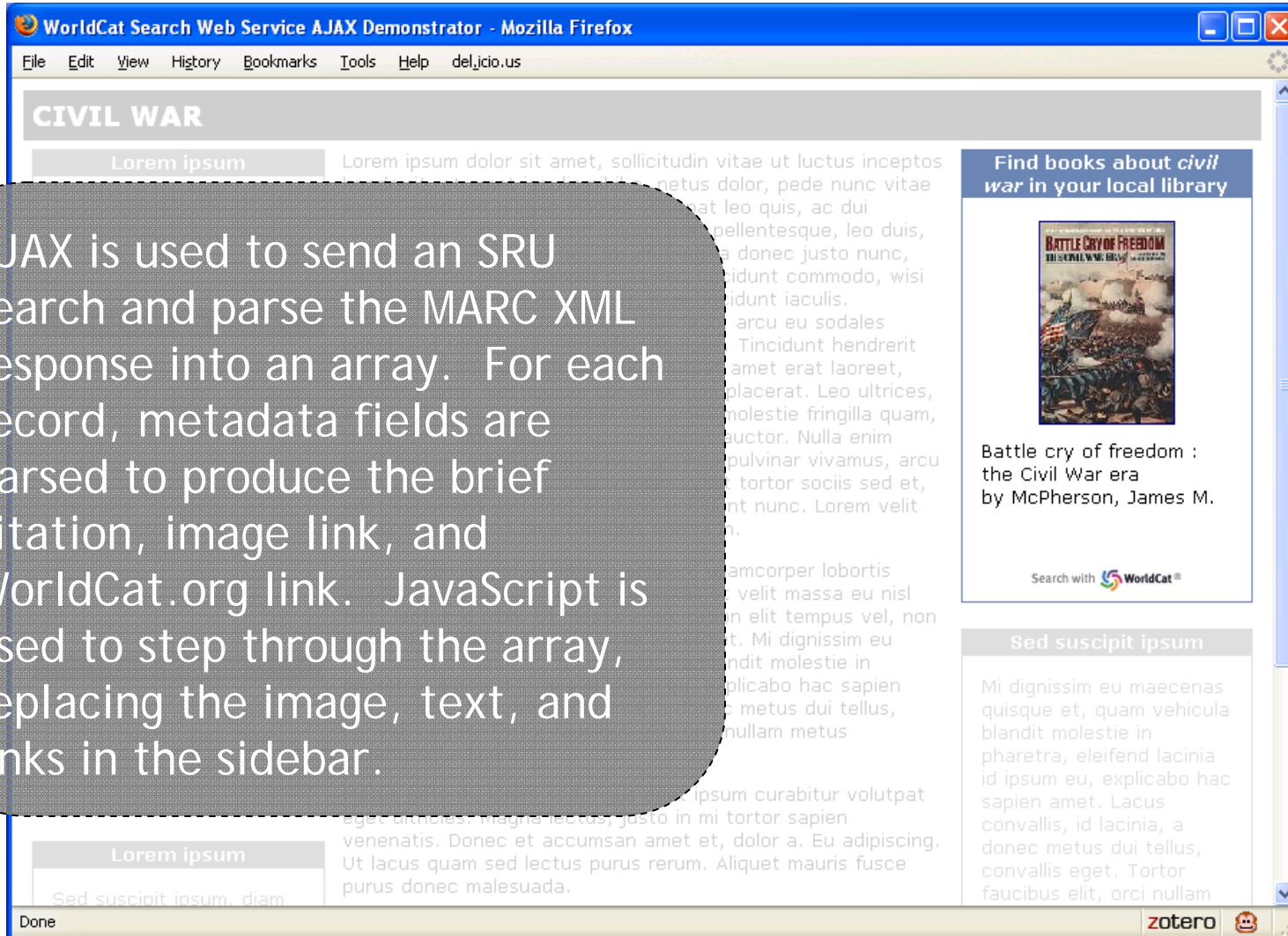
```
</text></electronicAddress>
```

%3D0195038630
Public

Demo: include WorldCat.org book links in a web site sidebar



AJAX is used to send an SRU search and parse the MARC XML response into an array. For each record, metadata fields are parsed to produce the brief citation, image link, and WorldCat.org link. JavaScript is used to step through the array, replacing the image, text, and links in the sidebar.



Demo: highlight citations, summaries, and local libraries



WorldCat® Beta Web Service Demonstration [About this prototype](#)

Look for in libraries near

Freedman, Russell . Lincoln: a photobiography. New York, N.Y.: Clarion Books, 1987.

Photographs and text trace the life of the Civil War President.

SAN MATEO COUNTY LIBRARY | San Mateo Public Library | Burlingame Public Library | Redwood City Public Library | [Stanford University Libraries](#) | San Bruno Public Library | South

The Civil War era. The Oxford Oxford University Press, 1988.

... myths and challenging new ones, Battle Cry ...
... history of the Civil War. James ...
... social, and military events that crowded the ...
... of another at Appomattox. Packed with drama and ...
... episodes that preceded the Civil War--the Dred Scott ...
... Harper's Ferry--and then moves into a masterful ...
... ing on both sides, the politics, and the personalities. ...
... rs as the slavery expansion issue in the 1850s, the ...
... al dissent and anti-war opposition in the North and the ...
... refers to the sentiments that informed both the ...
... d in the name of that freedom of self-determination ...
... while the North stood fast in defense of the Union ...
... Eventually, the North had to grapple with the underlying ...
... as a second war aim. This "new birth of freedom," as ...
... s bloodiest conflict. This authoritative volume makes sense ...
... we call the Civil War, a war that transformed a nation and

Done zotero

AJAX is used to send an OpenSearch request, and to parse the result for formatted citations. Record identifiers are used to get full records with bibliographic notes, and to locate nearby libraries.

David Walker's code4lib demo



Web Design in a Nutshell: A Desktop Quick Reference

By: Jennifer Niederst Robbins
Format: Book
Year: 1999
Publisher: Beijing ; Sebastopol [Calif.] : O'Reilly, 1999

We can get it for you in 24 hours.
Just [place a request](#).

Summary
Are you a print designer working on the Web? An HTML coder learning about server-side hosting for the first time? *Web Design in a Nutshell* has slim but whole chapters for those topics-- and everything else you can imagine.

Written in the popular "Nutshell" format, this guide is full of helpful tables and lists, making it a perfect desktop reference. The book breaks down the huge topic of Web site development into understandable, readable segments: the Web environment (browsers, displays, design principles), an in-depth guide to HTML tags, graphics manipulation and display, multimedia possibilities, and technologies for larger site management (such as Cascading Style Sheets [CSS] and XML).

People who checked out this book also checked out:

- [Learning Web Design: A Beginner's Guide to HTML, Graphics, and Beyond](#)
Available in 1-2 days
- [Learning Web Design: A Beginner's Guide to \(X\)HTML, StyleSheets, and Web Graphics](#)
Available in 5-10 days
- [Site-Seeing: A Visual Approach to Web Usability](#)
Available in 5-10 days

Karen Coombs' WordPress Widget



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[Ambient findability / 21 reviews @ LibraryThing](#)



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Test Post

testing

Posted on May 29th, 2008 by Admin and filed under [Announcements](#) | [Edit](#) | [No Comments »](#)

New Research Resources for Business, Education, and Social Sciences

These new databases are now available from the University of Houston Libraries:

CQ Voting and Elections Collection: It integrates data, authoritative analyses, concise explanations, and historical material to provide a research and reference tool on voting and elections in America. From the American voter, to major and minor political parties, to actual races for Congress, the presidency, and governorships, the collection provides context-driven intelligence on the state of elections in America. Election data can be downloaded.

Educational Administration Abstracts: It provides bibliographic records covering essential areas related to educational administration, including education research, higher education administration theory, and other areas of key relevance to the discipline.

Health and Psychosocial Instruments (HaPI): It provides bibliographic information about behavioral measurement instruments. Information in the database is abstracted from hundreds of leading journals covering health sciences and psychosocial sciences. Additionally, instruments from Industrial/Organizational Behavior and Education are included.

Small Business Resource Center: This database provides relevant, authoritative, and easy-to-understand information

test

Search

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The Programmable WorldCat



Combine Search API results in novel ways with other OCLC Web Services, including Identities, xISBN, Registry services, etc.

Embed within other platforms, e.g., Facebook, WordPress, etc.

Mashup with data from other sources and other web services, for example Google Maps, Yahoo News, Local Catalog web services, reading lists, etc.

What's Next for the API?



**Implementation of an application key to control access
(instead of IP address authentication)**

General availability to cataloging members

**On-going evaluation and improvement, working with the
Developers' Network and other communities**

www.worldcat.org/devnet/