

CASE STUDY: The Bavarian State Library

WorldCat Resource Sharing at the Bavarian State Library

With many holdings already loaded into WorldCat, discovering the Bavarian State Library's exceptional collection is easy. Now, thanks to WorldCat Resource Sharing, getting hold of these treasures is just as effortless.

Situation

The Bavarian State Library (German: Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, abbreviated BSB) in Munich, has a collection currently comprising around 9.39 million books. The library's unique collection is characterised by extremely precious manuscripts, rare printed books and comprehensive special collections representing thousands of years of cultural heritage. Furthermore, the BSB is Europe's second-largest journals library (after the British Library).

These factors combined means the BSB ranks among some of the best research libraries in the world and is considered one of Europe's most important public libraries.

With such a wealth of knowledge to offer, the BSB was keen to widen the reach of its collection and share it with people who otherwise may not have the opportunity to access it.

The BSB was already receiving around 950 ILL requests per day, mostly from within Germany—but in order to fulfill their objective of becoming a world-class supplier of materials it needed to simplify and extend the reach of its international resource sharing capabilities.



The Bavarian State Library, Munich

Solution

In March 2009, the BSB began its participation in OCLC's international WorldCat Resource Sharing interlibrary loan network.

Two years earlier the BSB had made the decision to add around seven million bibliographic records to WorldCat; the world's largest bibliographic database containing over 170 million bibliographic records and over 1.5 billion holdings.

AT A GLANCE

- Bavarian State Library is situated in Munich
- 9.4m volumes
- 53,000 periodicals (print and electronic)
- 92,000 manuscripts
- Received 232,000 interlibrary loan requests in 2008 (Approx. 214,000 were positively filled)
- Placed 12,000 interlibrary loan requests in 2008 (Approx. 9,000 were positively filled)
- Since 2007 loaded more than 7m bibliographic records into WorldCat
- Web site: <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de>



As a result of this participation the BSB benefitted from having its holdings visible through WorldCat.org—a Web site attracting 2m people every month by making the WorldCat global catalogue accessible on the open Web.

“The participation in WorldCat Resource Sharing offers library users all over the world much easier access to the stocks of the Bavarian State Library.”

Regine Becher, User Services of the Bavarian State Library

Joining the WorldCat Resource Sharing network connected the BSB to 10,000 libraries worldwide with OCLC's WorldCat database at the core of its resource sharing activities. From these participating libraries loan requests can be easily submitted, processed and fulfilled just as simply. In 2009 alone, over 10m interlibrary loans were made in this manner.

This simplicity combined with the reach of OCLC's global network promised significantly increased hit rates in the BSB's cataloguing and resource sharing activities.

Additional complications that can sometimes prove prohibitive to the international ILL activities of libraries, including payment issues, were removed for the BSB by using the Integrated Fee Management (IFM) feature of WorldCat Resource Sharing. IFM enables the BSB to reconcile resource sharing charges and receipts directly through its OCLC invoice, eliminating payments and cheque writing to individual lending partners in different currencies—saving money and time on each request.

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Result

From April to September 2009 approximately 1,600 to 2,200 orders on holdings of the BSB were placed each month via WorldCat Resource Sharing. Thereof, approximately 730 to 1,080 requests were positively filled.

Approximately two-thirds of these orders were article requests, one third were requests for books on loan. While the orders placed through WorldCat Resource Sharing covered the whole subject spectrum of the BSB's holdings, it seems that most popular were documents unique to its collection, that otherwise would be unobtainable.

In all a total of 16,000 requests were received by the BSB between March and December 2009.

While it was libraries located in the United States that placed the majority of orders requests were received from a total of 25 countries.

Following this successful initial period of use the BSB has subsequently decided to continue its participation in WorldCat Resource Sharing. While initially a desire to share its unique collection of holdings with people around the world prompted the trial, the subsequent ease and reach of the service ensured BSB's ongoing use.

The screenshot shows the 'Libraries that Own Item' page in WorldCat Staff View. The title of the item is 'Beiträge zur Geschichte und Literatur, vorzüglich aus den Schätzen der königl. Hof- und Central-bibliothek zu München' by Ignatio Hardt, with accession number 45969279. Below the title, there are fields for 'Lenders' and a 'Transfer to ILL Staff workflow' button. A table lists libraries with local holdings, including BAYERISCHE STAATSBIBLIOTHEK in Germany, YALE UNIV LIBR, UNIV OF ILLINOIS, COLUMBIA UNIV, and CAMBRIDGE UNIV in the United Kingdom.

Location	Library	Local Holdings	Supplier	Code
Germany	BAYERISCHE STAATSBIBLIOTHEK		yes	GEBAY ?
US,CT	YALE UNIV LIBR		yes	YUS ?
US,IL	UNIV OF ILLINOIS	v.1:1-v.2(1846)	yes	UIIU ?
US,NY	COLUMBIA UNIV		yes	ZCU ?
United Kingdom	CAMBRIDGE UNIV			CLD ?

An example of a holding entry of the Bavarian State Library.

The possibility of handling all requests through a simple user interface and online order management system makes it easier and faster to satisfy the literature wishes of customers all over the world.