

WorldCat knowledge base API

What it is: A read-only service for e-resource discovery and linking. Provides developer-level access to a library's information in the WorldCat knowledge base. The WorldCat knowledge base combines data about your library's econtent with access to it through linking features.

What it does:

Tells you what electronic journals or ebooks your library has, and how to link to them.

What you get:

OpenURL requests provide

- Matches for article, journal, or ebook citations to the specific access points for that content available to an individual library
- Links with all appropriate account identifiers
- Any proxy information necessary to get an end user to full text content

REST request types provide

- An entry point to browse a library's subscription resources
- Browse and search features similar to an A to Z list

Who can use it: Qualifying institutions who maintain an OCLC cataloging subscription

Usage limits/day: None

Query Protocols: OpenURL, REST

Record Formats: XML, JSON

Frequency of Update: daily

Documentation: <http://www.oclc.org/developer/services/worldcat-knowledge-base-api>

Why you love it: Provide access to the content you subscribe to, in one click.

How to use the WorldCat knowledge base API

Access

WorldCat Search API requests require an access key, provided by OCLC. Include your assigned "wskey" parameter in each request to the API. To obtain a wskey, contact support@oclc.org

Summary

The WorldCat knowledge base API answers the questions:

- Does library X have access to journal Y?
- How do I link to an article?

Response details

OpenURL:

Form queries to look like:

```
http://worldcat.org/webservices/kb/openurl/resolve?rft.title=Nature&wskey=...
```

Coverage fields:

The coverage and coverage_enum fields provide information on the time period covered by the journal.

The format for the coverage field is the following:

```
1 content@startDate~endDate
```

The format for the coverage_enum field is the following:

```
1 content@volume:N;issue:N~volume:N;issue:N
```

where N is the value for the parameter before it.

Both fields can be open-ended, which means one or both of the range pairs can be omitted from the results.

COVERAGE EXAMPLES	DESCRIPTION
fulltext@1987	Fulltext starts in 1987
fulltext@1987~	Fulltext starts in 1987
fulltext@~1987	Fulltext ends in 1987
fulltext@1990~1997	Starts in 1990 and ends in 1997
fulltext@	No start /end date
COVERAGE_ENUM EXAMPLES	DESCRIPTION
fulltext@volume:1;issue:1~volume:14;issue:4	Starts Vol. 1 Issue 1 and ends Vol. 14 Issue 4
fulltext@volume:57;issue:1~	Starts Vol. 57 Issue 1
abstracts	No start and end identifiers for abstracts

REST

Examples for each of the four base resources are provided in the online documentation, along with a sample XML vs. JSON response output for comparison.

- Collections
- Entries
- Providers
- Settings