What it is:
Developer-level access to WorldCat—for bibliographic holdings and location data.

What it does:
Search WorldCat and retrieve bibliographic records for cataloged items, information about libraries that own the items and links to online catalog 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 catalog 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/opensearch?q=[search terms]&wskey=[your key]

*The complete pattern for an OpenSearch request is:*

http://worldcat.org/webservices/catalog/search/opensearch?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]

**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/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]

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]

**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.

*An request for a single record at the full service level:*

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].

```php
<?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];
    }
?>
```