

Community, Innovation, Technology: Fifty Years of Sharing Knowledge

For 50 years, OCLC has helped libraries share knowledge and make breakthroughs possible for library users across the globe. From future-focused research to cutting-edge technology, OCLC and its members have achieved hundreds of important milestones in information service. Enjoy some highlights of our shared history!

1967

July 6
The original OCLC Articles of Incorporation are filed

Frederick G. Kilgour is named president

54 libraries become members of OCLC

Ohio University (Athens, Ohio, USA) is first to catalog a book online using the OCLC Online Union Catalog

1973

"Beehive" terminals are introduced for dedicated online cataloging

1977

OCLC Research is founded

OCLC Users Council established

OCLC introduces the OCLC Interlibrary Loan (ILL) system

5M WorldCat® records
45M WorldCat holdings

Rowland C. W. Brown is named president

OCLC moves to its new technology center in Dublin, Ohio, USA

First OCLC office outside the US opens in Birmingham, UK

OCLC expands services to Asia Pacific

1979 — **1980** — **1981** — **1986**

1988

OCLC begins publishing the Dewey Decimal Classification® System (DDC®)

18M WorldCat records
298M WorldCat holdings

Dr. K. Wayne Smith is named president

PRISM platform for OCLC Cataloging—and later, ILL, Union Listing and other services—is launched

1991

FirstSearch® introduced for end-user, online reference searching

OCLC Library School Program provides free OCLC access to library schools

1990 — **1993**

OCLC expands services to Latin America and the Caribbean

Montréal, Québec, Canada, office opens

Jay Jordan is named president

OCLC begins partnership with the Netherlands' Pica Foundation (full merger in 2007)

41M WorldCat records
720M WorldCat holdings

WLN (Western Library Network) members join the OCLC cooperative

1995 — **1997** — **1998** — **1999**

Asnières-sur-Seine, France, office opens

First class of IFLA Fellows comes to OCLC from Turkey, India, South Africa and Malaysia

OCLC begins offering CONTENTdm® digital management services

Mexico City, Mexico, office opens

2003

WebJunction launches, providing resources for public libraries

OCLC publishes OCLC Environmental Scan: Pattern Recognition

Sisis GmbH joins OCLC in Oberhaching, Germany

2001 — **2002** — **2004**

Fretwell-Downing joins OCLC in Sheffield, UK and Footscray, Victoria, Australia

OCLC publishes *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*

2006

WorldCat.org™ launches

The Research Libraries Group (RLG) joins OCLC, later becoming the Research Library Partnership

2005

Beijing, China, office opens

Global Council and three Regional Councils formed

108M WorldCat records
1.29B WorldCat holdings

What do you geek?™ "Geek the Library®" community awareness campaign begins

2007 — **2008** — **2009**

Number of non-English materials in WorldCat exceeds English-language materials for the first time

2011

WorldShare® Management Services launch

Skip Prichard is named president

OCLC publishes *Understanding the Collective Collection*

Dutch library provider HKA (Huijsmans en Kuijpers Automatisering) joins OCLC

ALA publishes *The Network Reshapes the Library: Lorcan Dempsey on Libraries, Services, and Networks*

2010 — **2013** — **2014**

2015

OCLC prints its last library catalog cards, ending a total production run of 1.9 billion cards

OCLC publishes *The Library in the Life of the User*

SCS (Sustainable Collection Services®), industry leader in library print management, joins OCLC

New data centers offer increased capabilities while improving security and privacy

Full Unicode support available for WorldCat

Florence, Italy, office opens

Barcelona, Spain, office opens

Tipasa™, the first cloud-based interlibrary loan management service, launches

395M+ WorldCat records
2.5B+ WorldCat holdings
16,000+ OCLC members in 120 countries

Canadian resource sharing provider Relais International joins OCLC

2016 — **2017**

... And, it's OCLC's 50th anniversary!

Share your OCLC memories and goals for the future on social media with #OCLC50.

See more memories at oc.lc/fifty.