WorldCat for genealogy research
The ultimate tool for your library’s users

You and your peers are building WorldCat—creating the ultimate tool for locating and accessing unique materials in your library. This is particularly important to genealogy researchers, who are among your library’s most active information searchers. You can make WorldCat’s genealogical information available to them through FirstSearch®, WorldCat Discovery, WorldCat.org™, and popular websites.

Unparalleled breadth and depth of information

WorldCat represents a “collective collection” of the world’s libraries, built by OCLC through the contributions of librarians and expanded and enhanced through individual, regional, and national programs. With more than 2 billion library holdings for more than 400 million cataloged library items in thousands of libraries, WorldCat continues to gain millions of records and holdings from international union catalogs and national libraries. These resources become an extension of your collection when you make WorldCat available to your users.

WorldCat has a breadth and depth of information that your genealogists won’t find in other databases. It makes WorldCat a unique tool for users to research their heritage, and it complements existing genealogy tools such as FamilySearch, LDS Family History Library, Ancestry.com, and other research databases.

Your “go to” source for detailed genealogy research

If your library has online access to WorldCat through FirstSearch or WorldCat Discovery, make sure your genealogy researchers know about it. Both services enable researchers to focus their searches and identify resources that help them pursue their genealogy interests. FirstSearch supports the expert searching often performed by experienced genealogy researchers, and WorldCat Discovery provides a more general approach to searching.

WorldCat is the world’s most comprehensive database of information about library collections. OCLC delivers quality, discoverability, and value. Member libraries provide the foundation. Partners support WorldCat growth.
EXTEND YOUR COLLECTION WITH WORLDCAT

Through WorldCat, the genealogists in your library can identify more primary source materials in libraries than through any other service. They can also discover an increasing number of digitized items, such as the following:

- historic newspapers from the US and other countries
- historic photographs
- family Bibles, church histories, and records;
- cemetery and burial records
- Civil War and other military records
- town histories and probate records
- general genealogical resources, such as directories, handbooks, and magazines
- slavery and antislavery materials, including slave records
- indexes of births, marriages, deaths, wills, and obituaries
- microfilmed genealogy and local history collections

Access FamilySearch data through WorldCat

FamilySearch is a nonprofit family history organization with the largest collection of genealogical and historic records in the world. Since developing a partnership with OCLC in 2013, FamilySearch has contributed millions of records to WorldCat. These records lead your library users to openly accessible digitized documents on FamilySearch.org or to the WorldCat libraries that hold the items.

Visit oc.lc/genealogy to learn more.

Find answers to common questions, read success stories, and get advice on teaching users how to use WorldCat in genealogical research. To learn more about WorldCat and adding your library’s materials to the WorldCat database, visit oc.lc/worldcat or contact libservices@oclc.org.

Because what is known must be shared.