

Frequently asked questions: Database recommendation feature in WorldCat Discovery

In May, a new database recommendation feature in WorldCat® Discovery will give users a consistent way to search databases from EBSCO and ProQuest that are not included in the WorldCat Discovery central index. Database recommendations will eliminate current remote search issues such as search timeouts or incomplete search results. The new feature will be available to libraries with WorldShare Management Services, WorldCat Discovery (premium), and WorldCat Local subscriptions, as well as to those libraries that purchased the former remote database search option.

On 16 May 2019, recommended remote databases will display at the top of WorldCat Discovery search results with an indication of the approximate number of results expected from each. Clicking on a recommended database will connect a user to the database's native interface to continue searching. For EBSCO databases, following this link will also automatically re-run the user's search terms in the EBSCO interface.

Who will see the estimated search results for non-central index databases?

The database recommendation feature replaces remote database searching currently available to libraries with WorldShare Management Services, WorldCat Discovery (premium), and WorldCat Local subscriptions, as well as to those libraries that purchased the former remote database search option.

Why is OCLC providing estimates of search results for A&I databases from ProQuest and EBSCO? What makes A&I databases different?

"A&I" is the acronym used to describe abstracting and indexing databases. These databases are developed by abstractors who summarize the content of each cited article and apply appropriate subject terms, to enable searchers to discover articles related to their search terms.

Content providers such as EBSCO and ProQuest prefer to maintain access to their A&I databases through their own platforms, because of the value they provide with abstracts and indexing. Since this type of database is often licensed by libraries, OCLC wants to make sure people can access this content from WorldCat Discovery searches, even for databases that aren't in the WorldCat Discovery central index. Remote searching through the Z39.50 protocol searches the metadata from the A&I database while still providing links to the full text in databases from these content providers.

When database recommendations are added to WorldCat Discovery, will databases from content providers other than ProQuest and EBSCO be represented with database recommendations?

All databases included in the remote database recommendation feature are from ProQuest and EBSCO. In recent years, providers of databases previously included in remote database searching have gradually moved most of these former remote databases into the central index.

Which databases are included in the database recommendations?

Databases that will be included in the new database recommendation feature are the EBSCO and ProQuest databases listed on the "Remote databases" tab of the WorldCat Discovery content list at <https://oc.lc/discoveryindex>.

Will remote databases from providers other than EBSCO and ProQuest (such as CSA and Chadwyck-Healey) continue to be searchable through WorldCat Discovery?

CSA and Chadwyck-Healey databases are offered through ProQuest, so remote database recommendations will display for these databases.

How does my library's WorldCat Discovery configuration affect remote database recommendations?

- Remote databases configured for searching in your default list will display with estimated results at the top of search results.
- Other non-central index databases enabled for searching but not included in your default list will continue to be available for selection on the Advanced search screen.

Can my library choose whether or not to enable the database recommendation feature?

Yes. Your content configurations determine whether recommendations display at the top of search results. Only the EBSCO and ProQuest databases included in your default database list will display with estimated results at the top of search results.