

Frequently asked questions:

Database recommendation feature in WorldCat Discovery

June 2019

In May 2019, a new database recommendation feature was added to WorldCat® Discovery to give users a consistent way to search databases from EBSCO and ProQuest that are not included in the WorldCat Discovery central index. Database recommendations eliminate previous remote search issues such as search timeouts or incomplete search results. The feature is available to libraries with WorldShare Management Services, WorldCat Discovery (premium), and WorldCat Local subscriptions, and to libraries that purchased the former remote database search option.

Recommended remote databases now 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 connects 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. For ProQuest databases, users are taken to the appropriate database, where they can re-enter their search.

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

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.

Why should my library display remote database recommendations on search results when our students are used to looking at citations in a list of search results?

Based on OCLC's research with library users, we know that even some more knowledgeable searchers do not know the name of databases in their disciplines. Even if they are aware that subject-focused databases exist, they often are not familiar with the names of those databases. Featuring these databases prominently in search results helps connect people to the discipline-specific databases that will support their research.

In user tests of this feature, people preferred placement of recommendations at the top of search results over other, less visible locations.

Display of database recommendations

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. You choose whether to include remote databases in your database groups.

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

- Remote databases configured for searching in your **default database group** will display automatically with estimated results at the top of search results. **We recommend including up to a maximum of 10 databases in your default database group.**
- When you search remote databases configured for access **from Advanced search**, results will also include database recommendations. You can include remote databases in your database groups along with centrally-indexed content collections.

Why should I include remote databases in my library's Advanced search?

Give your users easy access to the content you have licensed for their use through the search interface they use to find other resources in your collections. Content is more easily accessible—and more heavily used—when it can be accessed through your discovery interface.

We encourage you to include remote databases in the subject groups of databases in your Advanced search, to help easily access **ALL** licensed content you provide to them.

Details about configuring access to licensed content and databases is provided in [WorldCat Discovery documentation and training resources](#).

Databases included in database recommendation feature

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>.

Are databases from content providers other than ProQuest and EBSCO represented with database recommendations?

All databases included in the remote database recommendation feature are from ProQuest and EBSCO.

How can I configure access to the ATLA Religion Plus database?

We have added remote access to this new EBSCO database offering in response to your requests. You can now configure remote access to ATLA Religion Plus in [OCLC Service Configuration](#).

Configuration required in EBSCO and ProQuest

Are all required configuration changes in WorldCat Discovery, or do we need to adjust settings on content provider (EBSCO and ProQuest) sites?

Once you have confirmed that your EBSCO or ProQuest subscription includes Z39.50 access, you may need to update settings related to the Z39.50 client in your administrative settings on those platforms.

One example is this information Judith Gulpers shared in the WorldCat Discovery Community Center:

We had some trouble with specific EBSCO databases (no results for those databases). It turned out that we had to change some settings in EBSCO Admin. In our case:

- *Tab: Customer Services*
- *Choose profile: Z39.50 Client*

- *Tab: Databases*
- *Check the "Enable all/disable all column." "On" should be marked.*

Proxy configuration

Are proxy changes needed for use of the database recommendation feature?

Most existing configurations from the proxy setting in the WorldCat knowledge base and WorldShare Collection Manager were added to the new Metasearch Content proxy URL setting.

Confirm this setting exists and is accurate in Metasearch Content > Default Databases and Licensed Content > Remote Databases area of [OCLC Service Configuration](#) to ensure successful use of remote database recommendations.

Additional information about configuring proxy settings is available in [WorldCat Discovery documentation](#).

Where should I enter my proxy Base URL to support this feature?

In OCLC Service Configuration, enter your Base URL in the Metasearch Content > Default Databases and Licensed Content > Remote Databases tab:

WorldCat Discovery and WorldCat Local

WorldCat.org (Staff)

Third-Party Integrations

Metasearch Content

Default Databases and Licensed Content

Configurator v2 (Staff)

WMS Circulation

Activation

WorldCat Registry

IP Addresses

EIDM Institution (Staff)

Apply your selections by clicking the save button at the bottom of this page.
Refer to the available collections and database list from [OCLC Documentation](#).

Configure Databases to Search

Select databases or collection sets to which your institution has a current, active subscription.

Selected Databases 93 Selected **OCLC Licensed Databases** 13 Selected **Central Index Databases** 76 Selected **Remote Databases** 4 Selected

Provide access to abstract and index databases for your degree researchers, often requiring a default username and password to view the content.

Proxy base URL for remote database searching and recommendations*

https://proxy-test/login?url=

Required if one or many Remote Databases are configured.

Type name to limit database list display

Name

Enabled Databases for Searching	Username	Password
☒ Art Full Text EBSCO Art Full Text (H.W. Wilson)	username	*****
☒ ARTbibliographies Modern ProQuest ARTbibliographies Modern - New Platform	username	*****
☒ ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials EBSCO ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials	username	*****
☒ Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA) EBSCO Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA)	username	*****