

What is OCLC?

Connecting you to 70,000+ libraries around the world



“We are members working together toward a common vision, and it is through this shared vision that we hope to eliminate many of the barriers that prevent access to information.”

**SANDY ASHWORTH, DIRECTOR
BOUNDARY COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY**

OCLC is a worldwide library membership organization established in Dublin, Ohio, USA in 1967. It was founded by a small group of libraries whose leaders believed that by working together, they could find practical solutions for sharing records and reducing information costs. Over the years OCLC® has partnered with like-minded organizations from across the globe to become the largest research and library services enterprise in the world.

What began as a challenge to automate the traditional library card catalogue rapidly became a collaborative revolution that now involves thousands of libraries across the globe. The OCLC world headquarters is still in Dublin, Ohio, with regional offices around the world including Australia, Canada, China, Germany, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

More than 70,000 libraries in 170 countries have used OCLC services to locate, catalog, manage, lend and preserve library materials. Researchers, students, faculty, scholars and other information seekers use OCLC services to obtain bibliographic, abstract and full-text information. OCLC and its member libraries cooperatively produce and maintain WorldCat®, the world's largest library catalog, with information on more than 2 billion items in libraries around the world. WorldCat provides the foundation on which many of OCLC's services are built. The new OCLC WorldShare™ vision includes a Web-based platform for collective innovation with shared services, integrated applications and streamlined library workflows.

“To continue to be vital to society, libraries must adopt new objectives. In particular, they must strive to participate with individuals in their cultural activities; passive, depersonalized service is no longer enough. Developments in modern, information-based society are forcing onto libraries this new objective of furnishing an individual with information when and where he wants it.”

FREDERICK G. KILGOUR

President of OCLC from 1967 to 1980

From “Evolving, Computerizing, Personalizing,” in *American Libraries*, February 1972



A foundation of shared data

WorldCat represents a “collective collection” of the world’s libraries, built through the contributions of librarians, and enhanced through individual, regional and national programs. WorldCat represents the electronic and digital materials most in-demand by information seekers, as well as the important, unique items found only in local libraries.

OCLC’s discovery services allow libraries to expand their visibility and reach on the Web by connecting information seekers directly to the relevant information in library collections. WorldCat.org™ makes the items in library collections visible and available on the open Web. WorldCat® Local customizes and enhances this service for a specific institution or consortium.

WorldCat data—contributed by thousands of member libraries from around the world—is the foundation for a variety of interconnected OCLC services for libraries. Working together, these services help libraries save money, increase efficiency and serve their communities more effectively.



More than products and services—a commitment to research and community.

Beyond the global scope of its endeavors, OCLC’s involvement in library research and original programs and its commitment to community involvement make it a truly unique organization. Research and development programs and insightful, timely publications and presentations make OCLC Research one of the world’s leading centers devoted to exploration, innovation and community building on behalf of libraries, museums and archives. Through awards, scholarships and fellowships, OCLC provides

financial support to those beginning their library careers; to established professionals who excel in their endeavors; and to professionals working in rapidly developing countries.

Our advocacy efforts raise the visibility and highlight the viability of libraries within their communities. And through membership reports, standards activities and cooperation with library leaders worldwide, we seek to improve the profession for all librarians, staff and users.

The power of worldwide cooperation comes to library management

OCLC WorldShare™ Management Services provide a unified, Web-based environment that streamlines cataloging, acquisitions, license management and circulation, and offers a powerful discovery and delivery tool for library users. These services and related applications eliminate traditional operational silos and deliver new efficiencies in library management. This frees libraries from the restrictions of local hardware and software, and provides more time to focus on serving users and communities.

The OCLC WorldShare™ Platform is the technical infrastructure on which OCLC WorldShare services are built. It facilitates collaboration and sharing across the library community so that libraries can combine library-built applications, partner-built applications and OCLC-built applications. This enables the benefits of each single solution to be shared broadly throughout the library community.

Libraries worldwide have been working together since 1971 to create and build WorldCat. WorldShare builds on their achievement, providing new ways for libraries to operate, innovate and collaborate at Webscale.



OCLC Membership

Participation

Membership brings together institutions of all sizes with a common goal: to improve access to the world's information. It's a global mission that touches librarians individually.

Libraries that take full advantage of OCLC membership and services receive value, increase efficiency and support the future of librarianship.

Member Benefits

Build and use WorldCat. Share the world's largest union catalog. More than 1.9 billion pieces of information about who holds what and where.

Reduce costs. Receive discounts on OCLC products and services.

Access deeper resources. Gain access to rare and highly valued materials.

Tap 40 years of expertise. Benefit from dedicated research and access best practices.

Influence the future. Shape and guide not just OCLC, but the profession of library and information science.

Maximize your collections. Make your collections available to the world through cataloging, resource sharing, reference and beyond.

Training and support resources

OCLC offers training and support to help librarians use its services effectively and address issues they face every day.

Live, online webinars, in-person instruction and self-paced Web tutorials cover a broad range of topics and allow library staff to receive training in a variety of methods. OCLC also maintains a national network of certified training partners for expanded continuing education opportunities.

More about training resources: www.oclc.org/us/en/training and on the WebJunction portal at www.webjunction.org

Support for OCLC services is available online and via telephone and e-mail. Library staff are invited to sign up for e-mail updates, RSS feeds and various listservs for additional support resources.

More about OCLC support:

www.oclc.org/go/us/en/supportandtraining

For more information, contact your OCLC Library Services Consultant at libservices@oclc.org.



OCLC helps libraries in more than 100 countries. Please contact us to learn more about OCLC in your part of the world.

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