WorldCat® is a comprehensive database that represents the collections of OCLC member libraries worldwide. Being a part of this international cooperative resource is valuable, because it makes your library’s holdings visible to users in libraries and on the commercial Web. Through WorldCat Discovery Services, your users and staff can see both what you have and what else is available—including open-access collections—with the ability to get the items they want.

Your library’s subscription to WorldCat Discovery, the service that replaces the FirstSearch® service, supports reference and discovery in your library. It also makes your library’s resources visible on WorldCat.org™ and through partner sites. With a subscription, your users will see your library and collections at partner sites. These are the top ten benefits of your WorldCat Discovery subscription.

1. Be where users start their searches

WorldCat subscribers’ collections are made visible where people usually begin their research. More than 50 partners use WorldCat data to incorporate library materials into commercial search results. When a user finds an item, he or she can connect to a holding library’s site nearby.

Your WorldCat Discovery subscription enables visibility of your library’s resources to people who might not think of the library first.
2 Have a mobile presence

Adapt to your users’ needs with an interface that automatically resizes based on the device—smartphone, tablet or desktop. If you have an OCLC Cataloging Subscription, your library’s materials can also be found in popular mobile applications that use WorldCat APIs to deliver library results. Sample mobile applications include Blackboard Mosaic, Desire2Learn and RedLaser.

3 Use it for reference

WorldCat’s breadth and depth are unparalleled, and it can be used to answer a wide range of reference questions.

4 Explore a genealogical gold mine

WorldCat can be used for genealogical research. WorldCat provides information about library materials, and where available, links to digitized versions of local source materials in libraries, such as:

- historic newspapers from the US and other countries
- historic photographs, including digitized ones
- church histories and records
- cemetery records
- civil war and other military records
- town histories
- probate records
- general genealogical resources, such as directories, handbooks and magazines
- slavery and antislavery materials, including slave records
- oral histories
- diaries and journals
- indexes to births, marriages, deaths, wills, obituaries and burial records
- family Bibles
- manuscripts from archives
- microfilmed genealogy and local history collections

FamilySearch has loaded its rich catalog of genealogical materials into WorldCat, which increases the usefulness of WorldCat for genealogical research even further. FamilySearch also uses OCLC to catalog its collections into WorldCat.
WorldCat.org by the numbers as of March 2015

$336 million items
$2.2 billion holdings

WorldCat Identities summarizes invaluable information about personal and corporate authors. Each of the nearly 52 million WorldCat Identities records summarizes information on works by and about authors with short synopses, publication timeline, audience levels, related identities and associated subjects in a tag cloud. Searchers can add an additional dimension to their research through WorldCat Identities, available through WorldCat.org.

Track authors

Showcase local digitized collections

WorldCat can showcase your local digitized content. It represents a wide range of digital collections, with links to 42 million digital items from more than 1,400 institutions, in addition to digital materials from GoogleBooks and HathiTrust. Your WorldCat Discovery subscription includes CONTENTdm® “quick start.” Then, use the WorldCat Digital Collection Gateway to load your own local collections.

See just your library’s items

With holdings in WorldCat, you can feature your library’s collections at the top of search results in WorldCat Discovery. This localization will help searchers quickly identify materials in your library. Possibilities for getting needed items are based on item format, local policies and local processes.
Your library can include WorldCat results in other library services you are using from other providers. For example, discovery services such as VuFind, Blacklight, Ex Libris Primo, EBSCO Discovery Service and Serials Solutions Summon can incorporate WorldCat data through linking or through the WorldCat Discovery API.

Add optional services to tailor WorldCat Discovery for your specific local needs. These fee-based options are available individually or in combination.

- Item location and real-time availability
  Show users what’s available locally, down to the branch/department level.

- A group or consortium view
  Reinforce the value of your library’s group affiliations to see available resources.

- Course reserves/reading lists
  Build temporary collections of resources organized by course or subject.

- Remote database search
  Integrate search of all library subscriptions, including those not in the central index.

- Customized traffic and usage reports
  Upgrade from Google Analytics to gain custom reports through Adobe Analytics.

With WorldCat Discovery, you’re halfway to having OCLC’s cloud-based integrated library system, WorldShare Management Services (WMS). Having WMS means your local catalog is always in sync with WorldCat, and your records are continuously improving—as every other cooperative member library accesses and updates a master record.

All of these elements add up to real value with your FirstSearch subscription as it becomes WorldCat Discovery.

To add or renew your subscription, contact OCLC Library Services or go to www.oclc.org/en-US/worldcat-discovery.html