

OCLC Worldcat

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ABSTRACT

WorldCat is a global network of library –management and user-facing services built upon cooperatively-maintained databases of bibliographic and institutional metadata. There are 60,000 member libraries represented 112 countries worldwide, which includes the holdings of 1,256,923,49 records in more than 470 languages. This paper briefs about the Worldcat, its benefits, usefulness and ongoing pricing details for subscribing Worldcat by institutions.

Key words: OCLC, Worldcat, Copy cataloguing.

INTRODUCTION

WorldCat is the leading bibliographic database and the merged catalogs of thousands of OCLC member libraries around the globe. It is a worldwide union catalog created and maintained collectively by more than 60,000 member institutions. With millions of online records built from the bibliographic and ownership information of contributing libraries and it is the world's largest bibliographic database. WorldCat-listed resources span thousands of years and nearly every form of human expression. The Records exist for everything from stone tablets to electronic books, wax recordings to MP3s, DVDs and Web sites. The records increases efficiency by ensuring a high hit rate for materials of all formats and find records for materials ranging from the popular to the rare and difficult-to-find. When coupled with OCLC cataloging tools such as Connexion, PromptCat and others, librarians save time and resources when performing copy or original cataloging with WorldCat. Resources in WorldCat represent hundreds of languages and cultures,

and are owned – and shared – by libraries for more than 112 countries worldwide. Through WorldCat-enabled services, the library can highlight its own collection in search results, increasing visibility and circulation; use generated statistics to support budgets and refine planning; improve service to non-English speaking patrons; and generally offer more content and greater service.

Benefits for Catalogers

- High quality cataloging - which informs library's OPAC with rich, authoritative records
- Timely cataloging - the range of OCLC cataloging services ensure that the materials are processed quickly
- Locate the records that you need fast – searching in the worldcat leads high hit rate, in less time
- Increased efficiency - with the latest in cataloging technology. Flexible browser or Windows-based interfaces, linked authorities, and automatic extraction of metadata
- Export MARC or DC records – Due to export and import, the patrons can locate the materials that they need

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(Received on 23.03.2010, accepted on 21.04.2010)

Benefits for Reference Librarians and Users

- Dramatically increase the quantity and types of resources - available to the patrons through Interlibrary Loan, the FirstSearch reference service and electronic content services
- Benefit from the accuracy of bibliographic and ownership data - maintained through OCLC quality programs and adherence to international standards
- Enhance the range of resources you offer and reduce search complexity in FirstSearch due to linked integration with other leading service providers
- Extend the cultural diversity of your collection with resource sharing, collection sets and other services
- Offer better, faster service to patrons and improve most facets of library administration using WorldCat-enabled products

Benefits for Resource Sharing Experts

- Make cooperative collection development a reality
- Share resources within the group, or with the world
- Achieve fill rates of up to 95% for requests made via OCLC ILL
- Save money and improve turnaround time now that volume and year data is available in the lender record
- Use your staff effectively, with both web and command-driven interfaces
- Empower your patrons by letting them place their own requests
- Digital collections can easily be cataloged and shared

Records for digital collections maintained by CONTENTdm digital collection management software are now linked to WorldCat, which makes special collections known to a broader audience.

Usefulness of OCLC- Worldcat

Sharing the work

Contribution of cataloging to WorldCat is a contribution to the worldwide library community. As each OCLC member library contributes their cataloging to WorldCat, the overall costs of cataloging are reduced for all through collaboration. Duplicate effort is greatly reduced as libraries share the workload of creating original bibliographic records. The records can contribute online by using OCLC's online cataloging services, or offline using batch services.

Recognition as a member institution

Institutions that contribute to WorldCat are engaged in a unique cooperative venture that furthers access to the world's information and reduces information access costs. They belong to the world's largest library cooperative and remain on the leading edge of library science and information technology. All libraries that contribute one or more of various types of intellectual capital are considered members and receive great benefits for that collaboration. Those libraries that contribute all of their cataloging and holdings to WorldCat receive the highest recognition as governing members, along with the privilege of electing the delegates to OCLC's Members Council.

Guiding principles and rules

Contributors are bound by OCLC's Principles of Cooperation and follow particular guidelines regarding content permitted for entry into WorldCat. From its inception, Worldcat has been used both as a foundation for shared cataloging and as a de facto international union catalogue. The development of the OCLC Interlibrary loan system and OCLC reference system and OCLC reference systems has capitalized on and added to this core bibliographic resource.

The usefulness of Worldcat always has depend upon four factors

1. Its scope, that is , the extent to which it accurately

reflects the full holdings libraries

2. Its timeliness
3. The accuracy and completeness of the records that make up Worldcat and related files
4. The functionality and flexibility of OCLC systems and software that support access to and use of records and services

Recognising the importance of these factors, member libraries, regional networks, and other partners, and OCLC work together to build and maintain Worldcat and to promote the responsible use of OCLC records, systems and services.

On-going OCLC Worldcat Cataloguing Fee

1. Online Cataloguing Transaction –Based fee

The transaction based fee is US\$1.10 for each search in worldcat. This fee does not include WebDewey subscription fee. It usually takes about two searches to catalog a title. There is no additional charge for setting holding symbols in Worldcat, downloading (exporting) records from Worldcat, Online display of holding information, or use of Name address directory. If we choose this option, OCLC will invoice the member institution each month for the exact number of searches used in the previous month.

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2. Online cataloguing Annual Subscription Fee

The institution can take an annual online cataloguing subscription fee of US\$5000 for 12 months,

pre-payable to OCLC. This fee covers the use of following OCLC databases/services by the University of Hyderabad for cataloguing of library's newly acquired library materials:

- a. Worldcat (the OCLC online union catalog)
- b. Authority file
- c. CORC (Cooperative Online Resource Catalog)
 - This online cataloguing annual subscription fee will cover the following online transactions:
- a. Online searching
- b. Editing of matching records
- c. Online holding display
- d. Set holding symbol (namely, First time produce/update)
- e. Export of matching records

Whether the institution chooses either the transaction based fee or the annual subscription fee, OCLC will issue a credit of US\$3.00 to the library for each new record input to worldcat (including new CORC records) by the institution because a matching record is not found in Worldcat. This credit is issued to OCLC governing members only that make a contractual commitment to catalog all newly acquired library materials on OCLC. The total credit issued by OCLC to the member library during 12 month period shall not exceed US\$5,000 (five thousand US dollars) that the library has pre-paid to OCLC if we choose the annual subscription, or the total online cataloguing fee the library has been charged by OCLC if the library chooses the transaction based pricing. The credit is not refunded to the library. The credit can only be used by the library to offset OCLC online cataloguing charges.

The annual online cataloguing subscription price does not cover any OCLC off-line products and services such as accession lists, batch load, catalog cards, CatCD, creation of cumulated local databases, MARC tapes, or Worldcat collection sets, etc.

Member libraries make a commitment to

- Contribute to all current bibliographic and hold-

- ings information that represents catalogued items in their collections
- Create bibliographic records and related data at the fullest possible level, consistent with the standards and guidelines adopted by OCLC
 - Support prompt contribution of bibliographic records and related data to promote shared use of records and library resources
 - Cooperate with OCLC, regional networks and other partners, and participating libraries to identify and correct errors in contributed information and to avoid introducing duplicate records.
 - Limit use of OCLC records, systems and services to OCLC authorized users

To enable libraries to meet these expectations of membership, OCLC makes a commitment to

- Facilitate the participation of libraries as authorized users of OCLC records, systems and services
- Respond to changes in technology and in the goals, organization, and cooperative agreements of participating libraries, consistent with OCLC's public purpose.
- Provide cost effective methods that enable libraries promptly and efficiently to contribute information to Worldcat and related databases and to

- report changes or corrections to OCLC
- Facilitate ease of use and cost effective access to OCLC systems and services to benefit all participating libraries and their users.
- Disseminate clear and timely documentation of the standards and guidelines for contributing cataloguing and other data to Worldcat and related files

CONCLUSION

Worldcat provides valuable resources for scholarship, research, education created through the cooperation of participating member libraries worldwide. This is one of the most consulted database in the field of higher education. Every library should become a part of Worldcat to add its holdings to the world's largest and most comprehensive union catalog.

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