Discover how to navigate WorldCat.org, what resources you will find in WorldCat, and how to receive WorldCat news.

Overview

WorldCat is the world's most comprehensive database of information about library collections. Unique in scale and unparalleled in data quality, WorldCat makes library collections findable and accessible around the world. It's where you can locate a book, video, or other item of interest and discover which libraries near you own the item. Individual member libraries in your community and elsewhere provide access to the items represented in WorldCat.

Navigate WorldCat.org

To navigate, use the Next and Previous buttons and also the links provided on various screens. Also use the Next and Previous buttons at the top of the help window for best navigation of the Help system.

Note: In some cases, you may need to click the Previous button several times to get back to a previous screen. Many links open in a new window.

From the Item Details screen, you can go back to your search results by clicking << Return to Search Results. From online articles, you may return to the Item Details screen by clicking << Back to item details. These links are found at the top left of the screen.

How did I get here from the website I was on?

You might have linked to WorldCat.org from your library’s website or clicked a link on an OCLC partner site such as Google Books, Wikipedia, or Goodreads. You might also have clicked a “find it in a library” link from one of the more than 5,000 websites that link to WorldCat.org to help their users locate the items they need in library collections.

Can I search WorldCat at my local library?

You may be able to search WorldCat from the library’s website, once you have logged into it with your active membership account.

Although the basic identifying information you'll find on this website can fulfill most needs, WorldCat at your library includes extra features such as:

- Advanced and expert searches
- "Find similar items"
- Links to published reviews and excerpts
What will I find in WorldCat?

You'll find popular books, music CDs, and videos—all of the physical items you're used to getting from libraries and bookstores. You can also discover many new kinds of digital content, such as downloadable audiobooks.

You may also find citations for articles with links to the full articles, plus authoritative research materials, such as documents and photos of local or historic significance; and digital versions of rare items that aren't available to the public. Because WorldCat libraries serve diverse communities in dozens of countries, materials are available in many languages.

Specialized resources

Some WorldCat libraries make their specialized reference databases available on their websites, but only to library members. Your WorldCat search may produce direct links to articles and other resources in these databases. To access these resources, though, you may first be required to log in using your library membership.

If you are using this site from within a WorldCat library or over an Internet connection recognized by the library (e.g., a campus-wide network), you may be able to link to the full text of an article right from the Item Details screen.

News about WorldCat

To stay up-to-date on WorldCat news, click Sign up for e-mail updates on the WorldCat.org homepage and subscribe to our mailing list. You'll receive occasional messages that announce new site features and other enhancements.