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Collaborative Online Catalogs and Open Access Repositories: How They Benefit Researchers

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How They Benefit Researchers

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Collaborative Online Catalogs

What is a collaborative online catalog?

⋇ It's an online library catalog that contains records and data from a collaboration of libraries.

⋇ OCLC's WorldCat Discovery is a collaborative online catalog.

⋇ it contains catalog records from over fifteen thousand member libraries in 120 countries.

About OCLC (Online Computer Library Center)

ଓ OCLC was founded in 1967 as a nonprofit, member-driven library community, originally named the Ohio College Library Center, it was a collaboration among Ohio library directors and university presidents who wanted to create a cooperative, computerized network for Ohio libraries.

ଓ The plan was to merge these libraries' catalogs electronically through a computer network and database in order to streamline operations, control costs, and increase efficiency in library management.

OCLC's WorldCat

Between 1967 and 1977, OCLC membership was limited to institutions in Ohio, but in 1978 a new governance structure was established that allowed institutions from other states to join. In 2002, this structure was again modified to accommodate international participation.

OCLC's WorldCat is the largest online public access catalog (OPAC) in the world. WorldCat currently has holding records from almost 17,000 public and private libraries worldwide.

How Collaborative Online Catalogs Benefit Researchers

ભ A collaborative catalog, such as WorldCat Discovery, will allow you to discover materials not only within your library but within libraries all over the world, using the same, familiar catalog interface the whole time.

ભ Within a single search you can discover more than 2.7 billion physical and electronic holdings records.

A subject search on "To Kill A Mockingbird" retrieving only Winthrop University library materials yields 9 results.

The same search expanded to 'Libraries Worldwide' (materials from any participating OCLC library) yields 385 results.

How Collaborative Online Catalogs Benefit Researchers

ℯℐ Because you can view materials that other libraries have, you can feel more confident about placing Interlibrary Loan requests.

How To Use a Collaborative Online Catalog

Open Access Repositories

Repositories

What are they?

- Databases that showcase the breadth of scholarship produced at a given institution

What can they do?

- Host :
  - Faculty and **Student** Scholarship, including lectures
  - Data Sets
  - Campus Journals
  - Conference proceedings
  - Administrative documents
  - Much More!

Open Access

What is it?

- is free, immediate, permanent online access to the full text of research articles for anyone across the web

Two Paths

- Open Access Journal Publishing
- **Open Access Self-Archiving** authors provide OA to their own published articles, by making their own e-prints free for all.

More exposure for your work

Researchers in developing countries can see your work

Practitioners can apply your findings

Higher citation rates

Taxpayers get value for money

Compliant with grant rules

The public can access your findings

Your research can Influence policy

Benefits

- **Showcase work** in one place
- **Easy** to use
- **Indexed by google** and other search engines
- Allows users to follow authors and receive updates through **email lists and RSS feeds**
- Provides authors with **statistics** reports. (download count, referrers ect.)

Demo