



Network Services at the Local, Group, Global Levels

WorldCat Grid Services

WorldCat Grid Services increase the value of OCLC® membership and products by providing additional ways for users to access data and collections. When information about library collections is exposed at the network level, data works harder and end-users benefit from a much wider pool of potential uses and services.

What are WorldCat Grid Services?

WorldCat Grid Services describes a variety of OCLC networked services that are available for external consumption. Most OCLC users interact with data, collections and features through product-specific, pre-designed user interfaces and protocols. WorldCat Grid Services allow organizations to access OCLC library data at the network level, rather than the user level, in order to implement more customized, specific services and functions.

Examples of WorldCat Grid Services

WorldCat Grid Services generally fall into three areas:

- **Network Services:** xISBN and OpenURL are examples of metadata grid services already available. Future services might include identity management, payment services, delivery resolvers, metadata APIs and social tools such as voting, commenting and tagging
- **Registries:** The WorldCat Registry, with data from 90,000 institutions, is an example of a service built on top of the OCLC standard registries framework architecture (RFA).
- **Reusable Components:** WorldCat Grid Services are built using the OCLC Services Architecture (OSA), the same framework used to build many OCLC products and services. A growing toolbox of OSA programming components, code examples and toolkits will enable organizations to tap into the value of these services. Reusing software components in this manner also promotes OCLC’s mission to help libraries control costs.

The WorldCat Grid Community

In addition to specific services and components, an aim of WorldCat Grid Services is to support and empower a community of organizations and individuals with an interest in improving the overall landscape of library data management. The **WorldCat Grid Developer’s Network** is a group that fosters dialogue and collaboration in order to influence the direction and planning of these services. Involvement in the network is completely open, and the results of these discussions are shared with the library world at large.

Pricing, Access and Involvement

Some product functionality that becomes available as a WorldCat Grid Service will be included in that product’s subscription/license fee; how (or whether) to take advantage of this additional resource will be up to participating organizations. Other grid services may be free, available for subscription, or at a metered fee, depending on the service itself.

OCLC is committed to providing a growing range of services in this area, and welcomes your suggestions.

For more information...

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