



WorldCat - Your Library's Link to the World

WorldCat, begun in 1967, is the world's largest and most comprehensive database of bibliographic information. The database currently includes records from at more than 40 transportation libraries including those at UC Berkeley, Northwestern University, U.S. DOT, and libraries in state DOTs in Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Washington, among others. WorldCat includes information describing more than 2,300 Mn/DOT publications alone, along with more than 16,000 other publications held by MN/DOT Library. The full text of approximately 1,800 of these publications is directly accessible online.

The database consists of standardized descriptions of books, reports, databases, articles and other information resources. It allows library staff to locate just the item you need, wherever it is, and find the most efficient and economical way of getting it for you. It also allows transportation professionals around the world to identify any of the many transportation resources currently cataloged in the database.

The entire WorldCat database contains more than one billion records providing information on the locations of over 60 million books, reports, databases, magazines and other information resources. The database grows by more than one million items a year, continuously updated by staff in cooperating libraries. You can watch this updating process on their website at <http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/grow.htm>. WorldCat is essential to the operations of more than 57,000 libraries in 112 nations. It provides support for library cataloging, interlibrary loan, collection development and reference services. It is also testimony to the pioneering use of technology and collaborative spirit of the world's librarians.

WorldCat would not be possible without standardized metadata for information resources. The database is developed using standards (ANSI Z39.2, ISO 2709) for information interchange. The standards were developed in the 1960s by a group of librarians, led by the Library of Congress. Information professionals also developed additional standards based on Z39.2, usually referred to as the "MARC" (Machine Readable Cataloging) standards. The well known Dublin Core metadata standards are an abbreviated adaptation of these standards. Each of the libraries entering information into the database must follow these standards for describing information resources.

For more information on WorldCat go to <http://www.oclc.org/worldcat>,