

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCLC Migrations in the MINITEX Region

So far, the Connexion and Resource Sharing migrations seem to be going relatively smoothly for MINITEX libraries. OCLC shut down Passport for ILL, ILLME, and the ILL Web on Sunday, May 8. We were expecting at least a few panicked phone calls on Monday, the 9th, asking "What's wrong with my Passport?!?", but we have received nary a one. Carla and Virginia have been training almost non-stop since February (over 250 people attended Resource Sharing or Connexion Client training); Carlos contacted every library that had logged on using Passport in the last few months to be sure they were aware of the new interfaces; and we have been including lots of reminders in various mailings and e-lists. We're pleased that these efforts seem to have paid off.

Please contact us with any questions, problems or suggestions you might have concerning the new interfaces. We are happy to walk you through a new workflow, identify bugs and let you know OCLC's timeframe for addressing them, or pass your enhancement ideas along to OCLC.

Remember that the end of life for Passport for Cataloging and CatME is fast approaching. June 3 is the last day for Passport for Cataloging (see article below) and CatME will be retired June 30. If you haven't made the move to Connexion yet, now is the time!

Carla Dewey Urban, MINITEX

OCLC RSS feeds: A quick and easy way to stay up-to-date

OCLC offers RSS feeds featuring news, product updates (including the Dewey Decimal Classification), system alerts and research with more topics on the way. You can get the latest headlines delivered to your newsreader to make staying informed easier than ever.

Really Simple Syndication (RSS) is an XML-based format for distributing information from Web sites to desktops. A newsreader (or aggregator) application accesses selected RSS feeds to bring your favorite information sources to your newsreader. Numerous newsreaders are available, including freeware, shareware and browser-based options.

For information about Dewey RSS feeds, please go to:

<http://www.oclc.org/dewey/syndicated/rss.htm>

For more information about all the other RSS feeds from OCLC, please visit the OCLC Website at:

<http://www.oclc.org/rss/>

This site also includes a link to an RSS Quickstart Guide (see column on right of page). The quickstart guide, in turn, provides a list of free and recommended RSS clients for Windows, Macintosh, and Linux platforms.

OCLC Abstracts, May 2, 2005; Virginia Dudley, MINITEX

WebJunction Turns Two

This month, May 2005, WebJunction turns two years old. Since its release, the site has grown to include six community partners (and counting), over 13,000 members, 1,900 pieces of content, 50 online courses and nearly 6,000 messages posted to discussion forums.

Have you tried WebJunction? For more information, visit the Website at:

<http://webjunction.org/>

From the home page, you can link to an "Intro tutorial" (left-hand column). You can also link to the registration page.

WebJunction is free! Registration gives you the option of receiving the *Crossroads* e-newsletter. *Crossroads* will help you stay informed about new community partner sites, training opportunities, outreach programs for your users and much, much more.

GENERAL

WorldCat Collection Analysis: Demo Available on the Web

Interested in WorldCat Collection Analysis? Would you like to see it for yourself? You can now access a demonstration version of the WorldCat Collection Analysis service on the Web. This hands-on demo walks you through the screens and features of the service for both individual and group subscribers. Please go to the following Website for instructions and a link to the demonstration:

<http://www.oclc.org/collectionanalysis/onlinedemo.htm>

If you would like additional information after viewing the walkthrough, please contact the MINITEX BATS unit (see contact information at the end of this *Mailing*).

To place an order for WorldCat Collection Analysis, please go to the OCLC Online Service Center at:

<https://www.oclc.org/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/OCLCLogon>

You might also be interested in signing up for the WorldCat Collection Analysis discussion list (OCLC-WCA). You can accomplish this at:

<https://www3.oclc.org/app/listserv/>

Myrtle Myers, OCLC; edited

Open WorldCat: New Participation Requirements

Since 2004, Web searchers have been able to discover the rich resources of libraries with holdings in OCLC's WorldCat bibliographic database through OCLC's Open WorldCat program. This program enables Web searchers to link to library collections from the Web sites where they start searching, such as Yahoo! Search and Google.

So far, the participation of OCLC member libraries has been automatic unless you specifically opted out of the program. Beginning July 1, 2005, in order to keep your library's collection "open" to these Web searchers, you must maintain a subscription to the WorldCat database on the OCLC FirstSearch service and contribute holdings to WorldCat via cataloging or other OCLC services.

Please Note: Currently, all MINITEX libraries have a subscription to WorldCat in FirstSearch. In Minnesota, this subscription is part of ELM (Electronic Library for Minnesota) and is funded by state and local taxes. In North Dakota and South Dakota, the subscriptions are provided by the State Libraries. **However**, at this point, it is not known whether any of these subscriptions will continue into the next fiscal year (2005/2006).

Lots of information about the Open WorldCat program can be found on the OCLC Website at:

<http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/open/>

MULS Updating Still in Passport

Don't forget MULS!

As cataloging and interlibrary loan staff members work with the new Connexion and WorldCat Resource Sharing interfaces, the MINITEX/MULS unit wants to put out a reminder that OCLC union list maintenance will continue to be handled through Passport until sometime this Fall or early Winter. Union list maintenance is still available -- and, please, keep at it.

The annual update of the MULS database that's used in MULS in PALS and MULS in the MnLINK Gateway will be produced Aug. 1, so it's a good idea to have your library's MULS holdings as up-to-date as possible by that date. And, those of you who are searching WorldCat Resource Sharing for ILL know that new MULS holdings or changes in MULS holdings show up online in OCLC immediately.

OCLC is pursuing both the migration of union list maintenance to the Connexion browser and implementation of the MARC 21 Format for Holdings Data -- both expected for completion by the end of the year. We'll distribute more specific date information as soon as it's available.

So, onward with MULS! If you have questions about MULS updating -- or other MULS issues -- contact Dave Linton (612-624-3360, 800-462-5348, linto001@umn.edu) or Cecelia Boone (612-624-6353, 800-462-5348, c-boon@umn.edu).

Cecelia Boone, MINITEX

CATALOGING & METADATA

Connexion Response Time

OCLC is aware that the Connexion response time is still longer than that experienced when using Passport, CatME, CJK, and Arabic in some cases. In certain respects, it may never be possible to equal the speed in processing each command since there is vastly more data being transmitted with a web interface than with an old text-based interface. (Please note, that although the client is a Windows product, the Connexion host system through which the client interacts is web-based.) For that reason, OCLC has focused on streamlining and automating steps in the cataloguing workflow so that one command can accomplish a function that took several steps in previous interfaces.

Use Keystroke Shortcuts

A strategy that will speed up your input time is to use keystroke shortcuts rather than mouse functions in Connexion browser, and client.

- In the browser, almost everything has a shortcut, and they can even be customized to a degree. There is a Help topic "Keystrokes for record actions and navigation," and you can also open a menu by pressing Shift-F7 from within Connexion browser.
- In the client, you can perform all functions using only the keyboard, and all keystrokes can be customized. The client menus display the keystroke equivalents next to each menu command to help you learn them. You can also view and print out a list of all keystroke shortcuts by going to the View menu → Assigned Keys.

Work Offline

Also, with the client you can perform much of your work offline using the local file, and then transmit searches and system actions in batches, also saving time.

Things to Check before Contacting MINITEX or OCLC

If the speed of Connexion's response to your input still seems unreasonably slow, it could be caused by a problem on the Internet or on your local network. You could test your Internet access by surfing other Websites to see if everything is slow or if only Connexion is affected. You may also want to test this from another computer to rule out a problem with your workstation. It would also be a good idea to ask your network administrators whether your institution is experiencing local network problems if you notice slowness to all Websites or other indications of a localized problem. If Connexion seems to be the sole culprit, please contact the MINITEX BATS unit (see contact information at the end of this *Mailing*). MINITEX will gather information from you that will help OCLC troubleshoot the problem.

OCLC had many years to perfect Passport, CatME, CJK, Arabic and the PRISM cataloging system, which allowed us to make it into a very stable platform. Over the last 1 ½ years, OCLC has implemented many improvements to make Connexion a very stable cataloging service. We will continue to monitor and fine tune Connexion to optimize it's performance. The technology in use with Connexion is much more robust than our old systems and will enable you to do things the old system could never do.

OCLC Connexion Product Team; edited

Passport for Cataloging Retirement Date Has Changed Again! (by one day)

The last day you can do work in Passport for cataloging is June 3, 2005. This is also true for CatME NACO activity. Please read the explanation below from Chris Grabenstatter, OCLC Cataloging Product Management:

Because of the extensive system architecture changes for the June Connexion install, OCLC has decided to move the install date from Sunday, June 5, 2005 to Saturday, June 4, 2005. This will allow more time for system verification to ensure a stable system for Monday, June 6, 2005.

As a result, the Passport for cataloging retirement date is changing from June 5 to June 4, 2005. Beginning at 6:00 am US EDT on Saturday, June 4, Passport for Cataloging will no longer be available. After the completion of the June 4 install, when you try to logon to Passport for Cataloging, you will receive a message directing you to the OCLC migration web page for information. This change also applies to NACO authority functionality in CatME; however, other CatME functionality will continue to work until June 30, 2005. The

actual amount of down time on Saturday, June 4 is still being determined, but it will be at least six (6) hours. A message the week of May 23 will provide details.

Please complete all Passport for Cataloging and CatME NACO activity by 6:00 am US EDT June 4, 2005.

OCLC Connexion Client Updates

Version 1.20 is Going Away

OCLC will discontinue Connexion client 1.20 on June 1, 2005. As of June 1, you will not be able to log on with the older version.

If you have not yet upgraded to version 1.30, you might have noticed that you are getting a reminder that the new version is available each time you start the client.

For information on upgrading to client 1.30 and to download the software, please go to:
<http://www.oclc.org/connexion/interface/client/enhancements/recent.htm>

Version 1.30 is Here!

Connexion client version 1.30 was released in March and this is the version of Connexion Client that many of you were trained on this spring. If you missed the training, or, if you want some help getting started with the Client, the online tutorials are a great place to begin. (See next section).

Tutorials

OCLC has prepared a series of tutorials covering various features of Connexion Client. There are separate tutorials for each of the following topics:

- Overview
- Searching WorldCat
- How to Use the Local Save File
- Managing Constant Data
- Creating Bibliographic Records
- Editing Bibliographic Records
- Controlling Headings in Bibliographic Records
- Taking Final Actions on Bibliographic Records
- Batch processing
- Non-Latin Script Cataloging

Some of the tutorials are Web-based and some are Flash-based. Please read the system requirements first!

You can find the tutorials, plus the system requirements for viewing the tutorials, at:
<http://www.oclc.org/support/training/connexion/client/tutorial/default.htm>

Version 1.40 is Coming in Late June 2005

What new enhancements and fixes will be included in version 1.40? The full list, with explanations, can be found at:

<http://www.oclc.org/connexion/interface/client/enhancements/future.htm>

The list of enhancements includes:

- Spell check
- Offline validation
- Local file sort enhancements
- Local accessions list
- Batch searching and processing enhancements
- Access WebDewey
- Access OCLC Usage Statistics
- Chinese (Traditional) and Japanese interfaces
- A number of problem resolutions

Some of you may notice that a favored CatME feature is missing from this list, namely, a fixed field feature that allows you to view drop down lists for valid values. OCLC had originally intended to include this fixed field enhancement with version 1.40. Unfortunately, this enhancement will be delayed. It is still on OCLC's list of future enhancements, but a release date has not yet been scheduled.

Fuller information about future enhancements, for versions 1.40 and beyond, can be found at:

<http://www.oclc.org/connexion/interface/client/enhancements/future.htm>

Virginia Dudley, MINITEX

Usage Statistics for Connexion

You can now view online statistics of your use of Connexion. Data is summarized at the institution level, as well as divided by authorization number and interface (Connexion browser and Connexion client). Currently, you can view daily statistics. Starting in June, you will be able to view a monthly report for the activity from the previous month.

There is no additional cost to access these statistics. They replace the PRISM portion of the former paper product called OCLC System Usage Statistics.

To log on, go to:

<http://www.stats.oclc.org/cusp/nav>

Use your cataloging authorization and password.

The overall site name is OCLC Usage Statistics, and once there, you will see that you can access other statistics in addition to Connexion.

OCLC Cataloging Partners Program

Have you heard about the OCLC Cataloging Partners program lately?

The OCLC Cataloging Partners program is a collaborative effort between OCLC and material vendors (partners) to provide high quality catalog records to libraries at a reduced cost, especially for non-book and non-English materials.

When a library uses the Cataloging Partners program for its cataloging, every title the staff orders from a participating partner comes with a customized OCLC MARC record. OCLC and each partner guarantee a full record for each item on their active title list. OCLC Contract Cataloging staff edits each record to match a library's local cataloging practice, just as if the library's own technical services staff cataloged them. The library receives the MARC records from OCLC - edited to their specifications - when a cataloging partner fills their order. The library saves time, money, and puts materials into circulation sooner.

The Cataloging Partners program currently has over 4,000 participating libraries, with new participants being added each month.

Presently, there are 28 participating partners and the list is steadily increasing. Partners include Baker & Taylor (Spanish materials), Books on Tape, Knovel, Greenwood eBooks, Libros Sin Fronteras, Musical Library Service Company, BW, and more. To see a list of all Cataloging Partners program vendors, go to:

<http://www.oclc.org/catalogingpartners/partners/default.htm>

For more information about the Cataloging Partners program, please contact the MINITEX BATS unit (see contact information at the end of this *Mailing*). Or, visit the OCLC Website at:

<http://www.oclc.org/catalogingpartners/default.htm>

Michelle Phipps, OCLC; edited

RESOURCE SHARING

WorldCat Resource Sharing Update

Do you need some help using WorldCat Resource Sharing? Check out the documentation page at: <http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/resourcesharing/default.htm>

Here you will find links to a wealth of information, including:

- A series of tutorials that can help get you started with the interface
- A quick reference guide (*WorldCat Resource Sharing Quick Reference*)
- An explanation of the Request Manager categories
- A step-by-step guide to creating custom holdings (see also the next article)
- A guide to using and setting up Direct Request
- And more!

Watch for announcements about coming enhancements and fixes. Also, please note that the OCLC ILL system will be shut down from Friday evening June 10 until early morning June 13, 2005. During the shutdown, OCLC will migrate all data from their old platform to the Oracle platform.

Virginia Dudley, MINITEX

Create Custom Holdings Groups with Policies Directory Data

Your custom holdings groups and paths will be more accurate if you use the Policies Directory (<https://illpolicies.oclc.org>) to create and maintain your groups. This will allow individual institutions to customize their sorting preferences for groups of lenders such as LVIS (Libraries Very Interested in Sharing) and AV lenders by: state, cost, delivery method, or other criteria.

You can learn how to use the Policies Directory to create custom holdings groups with the brief online demo available at:

<http://www.oclc.org/ill/options/managelenders/customholdings/>

If you have not yet updated your resource sharing policies, please visit the Policies Directory and review your information. The *Quick Start: Entering or updating information in the ILL Policies Directory* will show you how to maintain your policies.

This guide is available at:

http://www.oclc.org/ill/migration/quickstart_policies.pdf

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact the MINITEX BATS unit (see contact information at the end of this *Mailing*).

OCLC Resource Sharing

REFERENCE

Link to Biblio.com now available on OCLC FirstSearch Service

OCLC has successfully implemented links to Biblio.com, one of the world's largest suppliers of used, rare and out-of-print books, from the WorldCat database on the OCLC FirstSearch service.

When libraries enable the link from the FirstSearch administrative module, WorldCat users will be able to link from the detailed record of a book in WorldCat to the Biblio.com Web site to purchase the item.

Additionally, when a book is not available on Biblio.com, customers will be connected to library holdings in WorldCat through the Open WorldCat program, which makes records of library-owned materials in WorldCat available to Web searchers.

Biblio.com joins booksellers Abebooks.com, Alibris, Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America and Barnes & Noble.com in partnering with OCLC to provide this service to libraries and their users.

The full news release is available at:

http://www.biblio.com/pages/Biblio_OCLC_partner.html

OCLC Abstracts, April 18, 2005

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OCLC Union Listing, including MULS