



# Statewide Illinois Library Catalog

## Sharing resources statewide

The Statewide Illinois Library Catalog (SILC) is a customized, statewide union catalog that combines all the state’s bibliographic records into a single, searchable database. The result: easy interlibrary loan for every library in Illinois.

### A history of collaboration

Illinois libraries have already made significant investments in time and resources to make statewide access to information a reality for the citizens of Illinois. SILC further leverages those investments, building on the systems that Illinois citizens already know—such as OCLC FirstSearch. Library users across the state have been using FirstSearch to access WorldCat and many other databases for more than a decade.

SILC builds on the foundation of WorldCat, the world’s most comprehensive bibliographic database. Libraries in Illinois have been contributing to WorldCat through cataloging and batchloading for many years. In fact, Illinois currently has more batchloading activity with OCLC than any other single library group.

### Facts about Illinois libraries and OCLC services\*

- 12.4 million bibliographic records have been contributed to WorldCat
- 62.6 million holdings have been set in WorldCat
- 2,665 libraries have access to materials in WorldCat through FirstSearch
- 526 libraries have used OCLC ILL to share resources
- 50 libraries participated in the Illinois group catalog pilot to test functionality

### Quality in SILC

The commitment of Illinois librarians to cataloging in WorldCat—and the catalog quality and consistency they have gained from it—has opened the door to new opportunities, namely statewide resource sharing among individual libraries and library systems. SILC means you can see and search the entire state at once. It also integrates seamlessly with WorldCat’s global resources, so a user can expand searches from local to global views with one click. You’ll be able to:

- Search all libraries in Illinois from one interface
- See item-level shelf status for your own or other libraries in the state
- Expand your searches to all of WorldCat at the global level
- Ensure consistent search results with a single, rich set of indexes
- Recommend resources effectively with FirstSearch evaluative content

Now is the time to put this infrastructure in place, because now is when people need information the most: for building resumes, starting new businesses and learning what is freely available to them—from any library in the state.



### Contributions to WorldCat from Illinois libraries\*

By Library Type	Bibliographic Records
Illinois Group Catalog (Parent Group)	12,402,821
ILCSO-Illinois Library Computer Systems Organization	7,079,478
Illinois-Health Science Libraries	383,307
Illinois-Government Libraries	1,116,556
Illinois-Academic Libraries	10,205,333
Illinois-Law Libraries	342,708
Illinois-Theological Libraries	682,855
Illinois-Public Libraries	2,961,742
Illinois-School Libraries	756,915

  

By Group	Bibliographic Records
Central Illinois (includes Springfield)	1,895,542
Chicago	7,245,746
Chicago Far West Suburbs	1,432,475
Chicago North Suburbs	3,826,113
Chicago South Suburbs	1,795,857
East Central Illinois (includes Champaign)	4,644,783
Metro East St. Louis Area	1,077,801
North Central Illinois (includes Joliet)	910,550
Northwestern Illinois (includes Rockford)	2,209,215
Quad Cities Area	606,987
Southern Illinois	2,029,308
West Central Illinois (includes Peoria)	2,484,721

To join ILLINET/OCLC see

[www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/who\\_we\\_are/OCLC/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/who_we_are/OCLC/home.html)

\* Statistics from July 2004.

## How it works

SILC is a shared union catalog of library holdings in the state. For Illinois users, that means consistent search results, high-quality records, rich indexes, integrated access to electronic collections, expert handling of all types of media and fast response times.

OCLC created SILC from holdings set in WorldCat by Illinois libraries. Users can search SILC through FirstSearch, which is already familiar to them. (Z39.50 is also available.) If users can't find what they're looking for within SILC, a single click will expand their search to all of WorldCat.

Using SILC, Illinois libraries can help users find items by providing them with shelf status information. This special feature lets libraries add a link from SILC to their library's Web OPAC or Z39.50 catalog, allowing users to link to item-level shelf status information.

## Key features

Illinois libraries can begin sharing resources immediately, easily adding holdings over time. Key features include:

- Unlimited access to the collections of Illinois libraries
- Search results that allow users to view local, regional, statewide or global resources—whichever they prefer
- The ability to specify groups within groups (e.g., medical libraries)
- Availability of six interface languages, including Spanish
- Guest access without login
- Statistics on SILC usage by group and by individual libraries



## Benefits of SILC

Facilitates easy, *unlimited resource sharing* among Illinois libraries and with libraries worldwide

Makes statewide holdings readily available, due to the work Illinois librarians have done to add their holdings to WorldCat

**Provides a single location** for users to find holdings and shelf status information for Illinois libraries

Enables searching through a familiar interface, FirstSearch

Leverages investments in current local systems and in OCLC services that Illinois libraries already use

Provides item availability and circulation information with links from SILC to local OPACs

Brings peace of mind, because OCLC configures and hosts the service so Illinois library staff can focus on other projects

Tailors WorldCat, the world's largest union catalog, to meet the local, regional and global needs of Illinois library users



*Using SILC, every library in Illinois can access the shared union catalog.*

SILC is available from Find-It! Illinois  
[finditillinois.org](http://finditillinois.org)

### For more information

To learn more about the Statewide Illinois Library Catalog, please contact the ILLINET/OCLC Office:

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[www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/home.html)

To learn more about OCLC Services for Groups, visit the OCLC Web site at [www.oclc.org/groupservices/](http://www.oclc.org/groupservices/)

OCLC Online Computer Library Center  
6565 Frantz Road Dublin, OH 43017

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