



Sharing Alaska library resources statewide

Alaska libraries of all types will soon be able to share their resources through the Alaska Library Network catalog—a customized, library catalog that combines information about the collections of all Alaska libraries into a single, easy-to-search database available over the World Wide Web.

The Alaska Library Network catalog, or ALNcat, will

have a public launch in May 2005, as part of the State Library's initiative to provide, at a reasonable price, the following:

- unlimited searching of Alaska libraries' collections through the OCLC FirstSearch reference service
- unlimited use of OCLC cataloging services
- unlimited use of OCLC resource sharing services

Immediate access to quality cataloging and resource sharing services

ALNcat will be built using bibliographic records currently in WorldCat. ALNcat will include only those resources held by Alaska libraries. After it is built, your library may choose from a variety of OCLC cataloging and batchloading services for the ongoing addition of new records to the group catalog.

All libraries will be able to load their retrospective holdings and make unlimited use of OCLC's diverse cataloging options, including:

- CatExpress - a Web-based cataloging system designed for smaller libraries
- Connexion browser - a Web-based interface to OCLC's cataloging service, which accommodates varying levels of expertise
- Connexion client - a powerful, flexible Windows-based interface to OCLC's cataloging service
- Z39.50 Cataloging - using your Z39.50-compliant local library system, your library can search for and download bibliographic records
- PromptCat - receiving OCLC records for materials ordered through participating book jobbers

ALNcat will open the door to new opportunities for resource sharing for your library, ensuring your library users obtain the information they need. If your library or another Alaska library doesn't own an item, you can extend your library's reach by borrowing from one of 7,100 libraries worldwide that are a part of the OCLC resource-sharing system. Every Alaska library will have unlimited access to OCLC resource-sharing services, supporting loan and photocopy requests, as well as mediated or unmediated requests.



A history of collaboration

An Alaska Catalog builds on the foundation of WorldCat, the world's most comprehensive bibliographic database.

Alaska libraries have made significant investments in time and resources to make statewide access to information a reality for the citizens of Alaska. Alaska libraries also have made investments in building a collection of library records within the WorldCat database. These efforts have resulted in the addition of more than 1.86 million library holdings to WorldCat. ALNcat will leverage all these investments, building on a system that Alaskan citizens already know—the OCLC FirstSearch service, which many library users across the State are already using to access WorldCat and other databases.

More on resource sharing and the Alaska Catalog

Unlimited use of OCLC's resource-sharing services includes the ability to:

- Efficiently create, send and track ILL requests
- Significantly reduce administrative costs by tracking and reconciling ILL charges automatically through your OCLC bill
- Create, maintain, and display serials union list information, including volume- and year-specific information
- Statistical reports

For location, local call number, and item availability (i.e., shelf status), the records in ALNcat will link to the home catalogs of Alaska libraries using OCLC control number or ISBN/ISSN. Similarly, records in the other groupings and in WorldCat will link to the home catalogs of several thousand libraries that have recorded URL information for their OPAC in the FirstSearch Administrative Module.

Easy access to library collections locally, regionally, statewide or worldwide

Using the OCLC FirstSearch reference service, library users can begin by searching for materials in your library. If they can't find an item locally, with a click of their mouse they can easily expand their search to other libraries in their part of the state, all the libraries in Alaska or to libraries around the world through WorldCat. Once a user identifies an item he wants, he can easily link to a library's catalog to see if the item is on the shelf and available.

Put ALNcat to work in your library now to help people in your community find the information they need: for building resumes, starting new businesses or careers and learning what is freely available to them—from their library.

By joining this initiative, your library will be able to offer even better service, as well as an expanded world of knowledge, to your community.

For more information

To join this Alaska statewide library initiative and enjoy the benefits of the Alaska Library Network Catalog, please contact:

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Key features of the statewide initiative

- Unlimited access to OCLC cataloging and resource-sharing services at a reasonable price through the agreement negotiated on your behalf by the Alaska State Library
- Unlimited access to the collections of Alaska libraries via WorldCat on the FirstSearch reference service
- Predictable subscription pricing not based on volume of use
- Availability of six interface languages, including Spanish
- Search results that allow users to view local, regional, statewide or global resources -- whichever they prefer
- Statistics on the ALNcat usage by group and by individual libraries

Benefits of the Alaska Catalog

- Facilitates easy, unlimited resource sharing among Alaska libraries and with libraries worldwide
- Makes holdings readily available for individual libraries as well as library systems, due to the work Alaska librarians have done to add their holdings to WorldCat
- Gives a single location for users to find holdings and shelf status information for Alaska libraries
- Enables searching through a familiar interface, FirstSearch
- Leverages investments in current local systems and in OCLC services that Alaska libraries already use
- Provides links from ALNcat to item availability and circulation information in many local library systems
- Saves time, because OCLC configures and hosts the service so Alaska library staff can focus on other projects

Local training and support

With a minimal investment, your library can become part of this initiative. Training and support will be provided within the State of Alaska. The OCLC Western Service Center will offer workshops throughout the year, as well as one-on-one training and distance learning opportunities.

To learn more about OCLC Services for Groups, visit the OCLC Web site at www.oclc.org/groupservices/

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