



Alaska Library Network Group Services

The Alaska Library Network Catalog (ALNcat) is a new service for Alaska librarians and library patrons that combines all of Alaska libraries' bibliographic records into a single, customized union catalog. The result: easy identification of library materials and access to interlibrary loan for Alaska library users.

Sharing Alaska library resources statewide

Beginning in February 2005, library users in Alaska can search the collections of all Alaska libraries that have added their ownership information to OCLC WorldCat in a single click. They can limit their searches to specific groups of Alaska libraries or expand their view to see libraries around the world. If they can't find an item locally, with a click of their mouse they can expand their search to other libraries in their part of the state, all the libraries in Alaska or to libraries around the world. Once a user identifies an item he wants, he can link to a library's catalog to see if the item is on the shelf and available.

A history of collaboration

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 OCLC WorldCat, the world's most comprehensive bibliographic database.

These efforts have resulted in the addition of more than 3.8 million library holdings to the WorldCat. The Alaska Library Network Catalog leverages all these investments, building on a system that Alaskan citizens already use—the OCLC FirstSearch service, to access WorldCat and other online databases.



Contributions to WorldCat from Alaska Libraries

	Bibliographic holdings
<i>Academic Libraries in Alaska</i>	1,622,452
<i>Public Libraries in Alaska</i>	1,329,885
<i>School Libraries in Alaska</i>	614,562
<i>Special Libraries in Alaska</i>	424,921
<i>Anchorage Area Libraries</i>	1,397,324
<i>Fairbanks Area Libraries</i>	1,037,527
<i>Juneau Area Libraries</i>	364,282
<i>Kenai Area Libraries</i>	153,353
<i>MatSu Area Libraries</i>	184,865
<i>Northern Alaska Libraries</i>	1,127,621
<i>Southcentral Alaska Libraries</i>	1,898,359
<i>Southeastern Alaska Libraries</i>	739,679
<i>Western Alaska Libraries</i>	80,653

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



Key features of the Alaska Library Network Catalog

- 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
- Statistics on the Alaska Catalog usage by group and by individual library

Local training and support

With a minimal investment, your library can become part of this initiative that includes training and support from resources within the state of Alaska. The OCLC Western Service Center offers workshops throughout the year, as well as one-on-one training and distance learning opportunities.

Benefits of the Alaska Library Network 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 item availability and circulation information with links from the group catalog to local library systems
- Saves time, because OCLC configures and hosts the service so Alaska library staff can focus on other projects

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.

The screenshot shows the Alaska Library Network Catalog search page. At the top, it says "Alaska Library Network Catalog" and "Alaska State Library". Below that, it says "Alaska Library Network Catalog Basic Search" and "SLED | Other Resources". There are navigation tabs for "Home", "Databases", and "Searching". Under "Searching", there are sub-tabs for "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", "Expert Search", and "Previous Searches". There are also links for "Staff View", "My Account", "Options", "Comments", "Exit", and "Hide tips". The main search area has a "Search" button and a "Clear" button. Below that, it says "Search in database: ALNcat" and "OCLC catalog of books and other materials in Alaska libraries". There is a "Limit to: All Alaska Libraries" dropdown. Below that, there are input fields for "Keyword", "Author", "Title", "ISBN", and "Year". Each field has a "Search" button and a "Clear" button. There are also help icons for each field.

Using the Alaska Library Network Catalog, library users and staff can easily access collections of all Alaska libraries.

For more information

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

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

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