

## UA WorldCat FAQ

### FAQs:

1. **What is UA WorldCat?**
2. **What kind of publications will I find in UA WorldCat?**
3. **What does UA WorldCat do that the NEOS Libraries Catalogue does not do (or does better than the NEOS Libraries Catalogue)?**
4. **Are there things that UA WorldCat doesn't do that the NEOS Libraries Catalogue will do?**
5. **Why doesn't UA WorldCat format citations in the latest version of APA and MLA?**
6. **Do I search UA WorldCat the same way I search the NEOS Libraries Catalogue?**
7. **But what if I want to do a Boolean search of UA WorldCat?**
8. **Can I use truncation and wildcards in UA WorldCat?**
9. **Since UA WorldCat includes journal articles, if I need to find articles on my topic, should I simply search UA WorldCat instead of other databases I have used in the past?**
10. **Where can I find out more about UA WorldCat?**
11. **If I notice an error, encounter a problem with UA WorldCat, or I wish to provide you with feedback on it, who should I contact?**

### **What is UA WorldCat?**

UA WorldCat is a version of OCLC WorldCat (a union catalogue of library holdings of major university and research libraries around the world) customized so that items available at the University of Alberta will be listed first for any search conducted.

When you search UA WorldCat you will be searching our collection and the collections of many other libraries worldwide using WorldCat, the world's largest network of library-based content and services.

#### *Useful UA WorldCat Features include:*

- A WorldCat user account that allows you to create a personal profile and build private and public lists of library items and contribute reviews and notes to WorldCat records.
- A 'Refine Your Search' feature that helps you narrow a large set of results
- A 'Request Item' button to request materials not in your local collection or to place a hold on materials signed out to other users.

### **What kind of publications will I find in UA WorldCat?**

You will be able to locate publications in a wide range of formats: books, audio-visual material, dissertations, government documents and journal articles. UA WorldCat will also indicate whether a publication is available online and when it is, provide a link to it.

After performing a search, you can use the **Format** limit available along the left hand side of the screen to limit your search to a specific format.

As mentioned above, journal articles are listed in UA WorldCat. These articles are drawn from the following sources: [JSTOR](#), [MEDLINE](#), [ERIC](#), [Science Direct](#) and [OCLC ArticleFirst](#). The *GetIt* button is available in UA WorldCat article records to facilitate linking to online full-text or to determine print availability.

### **What does UA WorldCat do that the NEOS Libraries Catalogue does not do (or does better than the NEOS Libraries Catalogue)?**

- Allows you to search for publications in libraries beyond the libraries of the NEOS Consortium.
- Allows you - with the click of a link - to see the various formats available for a specific title, e.g. print version, e-version, audio-version, large print, translations, etc.
- Has a 'Do you mean' feature that assists when you have spelling mistakes in your search statement.
- Allows you to search with and display records in non-Roman scripts.
- Allows you to use your browser back and forward buttons to navigate. (Using the browser back and forward buttons in the NEOS Libraries Catalogue may cause problems like prematurely ending your search session. )
- Supports simple keyword searching.
- Provides a more straightforward method of limiting searches by format, year, author, etc.
- Will retrieve journal articles from selected sources.
- Allows you to create citations in several major reference styles (APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA & Turabian).
- Allows you to set up a WorldCat account which provides a means of creating and sharing reading lists, tagging records and writing reviews for items listed in the catalogue.

### **Are there things that UA WorldCat doesn't do that the NEOS Libraries Catalogue will do?**

The following are things that UA WorldCat can't do (or can't do as well as the NEOS Libraries Catalogue):

- While UA WorldCat will display items held in a U of Alberta Library first, it does not have a means of limiting searches to items held in specific U of Alberta Libraries, e.g. if you want to limit your search to items held in Rutherford Library, you would have to search the NEOS Libraries Catalogue instead of UA WorldCat.
- Some Reserve holdings will be found in UA WorldCat but not all, e.g. course notes, photocopied items and 'prof's copies' of books will not be listed in UA WorldCat. For that reason, we recommend that you use the NEOS Libraries Catalogue for Reserve materials.
- Currently, UA WorldCat does not indicate when materials are due – only that they are checked out – if you wish to see the due date for materials, you will have to use the NEOS Libraries Catalogue. We hope that due dates will become available in UA WorldCat in the near future.

- E-books from the following publishers are currently not listed in UA WorldCat: *Eighteenth Century Collections Online*, *Making of Modern Law*, Monographs from the *Early English Books Online* collection, *Gerritsen Collection* (Women's History Online) and *Safari Technical Books Online*.
- You cannot search using [MARC codes](#). This will only really matter to library staff.

### **Why doesn't UA WorldCat format citations in the latest version of APA and MLA?**

We have requested that OCLC update the formats for these two styles and hope that this will be done soon.

### **Do I search UA WorldCat the same way I search the NEOS Libraries Catalogue?**

The approach to searching UA WorldCat is slightly different from searching the NEOS Libraries Catalogue. To search UA WorldCat, use simple keywords as you would on a Web search site like Google. Try using words from a title; the name of the author, artist or director; or words that describe the subject matter or a combination of any of these.

If you wish to search an exact phrase, enclose it in parentheses, e.g. "human rights"

Don't use *Boolean operators* (AND, OR) when searching UA WorldCat.

### **But what if I want to do a Boolean search of UA WorldCat?**

You can do Boolean searching but you will use different conventions than those used in the NEOS Libraries Catalogue.

AND is the default search in UA WorldCat, i.e. if you enter *nursing history canada*, WorldCat will find items that contain ALL three of these words, so you do not need to enter AND. If you insist on ANDing your terms, use the plus sign (+) in place of AND, e.g. *nursing + history + canada*.

If you wish to combine terms using OR, you may do so, but OR must be in upper case, e.g. "*conflict management*" **OR** "*conflict resolution*". The symbol | can be used in place of OR, e.g. "*conflict management*" | "*conflict resolution*"

If you to combine AND and OR terms in the same search statement, enclose the ORed terms in parentheses, e.g. to find publications on the psychology of conflict management/resolution you would enter: ("*conflict management*" **OR** "*conflict resolution*") *psychology*

### **Can I use truncation and wildcards in UA WorldCat?**

The asterisk or functions as a truncation symbol in UA WorldCat, e.g. *ethic\** will retrieve *ethic*, *ethics* and *ethical*.

The pound sign (#) represents a single character and is useful when a single character can vary within a work, e.g. *wom#n* will retrieve *woman* and *women*.

The question mark (?) represents either a single character or any number of additional characters and is helpful in retrieving both the British and American spellings of certain words, e.g. *colo?r* will retrieve both *color* and *colour*.

NOTE: In the NEOS Libraries catalogue, the truncation symbol is \$, i.e. *ethic\$* would retrieve *ethic*, *ethics* and *ethical*. There is no equivalent for # and ? in the NEOS Libraries Catalogue.

**Since UA WorldCat includes journal articles, if I need to find articles on my topic, should I simply search UA WorldCat instead of other databases I have used in the past?**

Articles retrieved in a UA WorldCat search come from the following databases: [JSTOR](#), [MEDLINE](#), [ERIC](#), [Science Direct](#) and [OCLC ArticleFirst](#).

If you are finding enough relevant articles to meet your needs when you search UA WorldCat then you may not need to search elsewhere for journal articles.

However, keep in mind that the databases named above contain only a small proportion of the world's periodical literature. You would not want to rely on UA WorldCat for articles searches in the following situations:

- You are searching for an article on topics not covered well by the databases listed above.
- You need to conduct a comprehensive search for journal articles, e.g. you are working on a thesis/dissertation, systematic review or grant proposal.
- Your search topic is complex, and you need to use the search features available in interfaces like *Ovid*, *EBSCO*, *ProQuest*, *CSA*, etc, to retrieve exactly what you need.

**Where can I find out more about UA WorldCat?**

Click [here](#) for more information about UA WorldCat. For information about searching UA WorldCat and about using UA WorldCat features, click [here](#).

And don't forget.... You can always [Ask Us](#) (your Library staff) for more information about, or assistance with, UA WorldCat.

**If I notice an error, encounter a problem with UA WorldCat, or I wish to provide you with feedback on it, who should I contact?**

Please click [<here>](#) to report any problems with UA WorldCat or to provide us with feedback.