



Law Library E-Newsletter The Book Docket

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Open WorldCat

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It is a beautiful Sunday morning and you are drinking coffee and reading the newspaper. You've just finished reading a review of a new book and it looks like something you'd really enjoy. You know you don't need to buy any more books and you know if you go to the bookstore you'll come out with more than the one title you went in for. Then you get a brilliant idea! You wonder if any local library might have a copy you could borrow or at least look at. Guess you can go on the Web and search Novacat to see if any of the NSU libraries has a copy. But if they don't, you'll have to check each local library catalog on the Web. You do want to go to the Web, but now you can search nearly all the libraries in the world from one web location! WorldCat is the Union Catalog for the world and WorldCat is now available for anyone with a computer and Web access.

WorldCat is the world's largest bibliographic database with more than 1 billion records and the holdings of more than 50,000 libraries in 112 countries and territories. WorldCat was begun in 1971 and has been built by OCLC and its member libraries as a cooperative endeavor. For more than 40 years, libraries have used OCLC and the bibliographic database to generate catalog cards or computer-legible records for online catalogs. Libraries have also used this resource to locate materials needed by their patrons but not held in their own library. It used to be that only a librarian could find out who might own a desired title nearby, but that day is gone. WorldCat has been opened to the world! All you need to do is type "worldcat.org" in the address bar of your favorite web browser and the page shown below should display.

The screenshot shows the WorldCat website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Home" and "Learn More" links. A status bar indicates "You are not signed in (Sign In to WorldCat or Register)". Below this, a banner states "Over 1 billion items in more than 10,000 libraries worldwide".

The main search area is titled "Search for an item in libraries near you:" and includes a text input field with the placeholder "Enter a title, subject or person" and a "Search" button. A link for "Advanced Search" is provided below the input field.

To the right of the search area, a list of icons represents various media types: books, music, videos, articles, and electronic resources. Text next to these icons says: "You'll find books, music, videos, articles and more you can check out, view or download".

Below the icons, a message states: "WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and services. [Learn more >>](#)".

At the bottom of the main content area, there are links for "Get WorldCat Affiliate tools - Partnership opportunities" and "Librarians: Put your library in WorldCat".

On the right side of the page, a blue sidebar contains several links and information:

- [Create a WorldCat link with embedded search terms >>](#)
Link people to WorldCat results for one or more subject, author or title keywords. Also: Link to the WorldCat page for an item by standard number
- [Put the WorldCat search box on your site >>](#)
Let visitors to your homepage or blog find library-owned materials
- [Download a free browser plug-in >>](#)
Search libraries from your browser's toolbar
- [See other ways you can use WorldCat >>](#)
 - Google, Yahoo! and other Web sites
 - On-site at your library
 - Regional or subject-specific library groups

The browser's address bar shows the URL "http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/account/?page=login".

From this screen above, you can search for a title, a subject, or a person. You can look for books, videos, music, articles, or electronic resources. There is also a link to an Advanced Search screen so you may make your search more specific by specifying title, keyword, author, or ISBN/ISSN. You may also limit the search by format, language, or publication date. The blue column to the right links you to sites where you can learn how to put WorldCat plug-ins on your favorite browser or to put the WorldCat search box on your personal Web page, blog, etc.

The screenshot shows the WorldCat website interface in Microsoft Internet Explorer. The browser's address bar displays the URL: http://www.worldcat.org/search?q=nation+of+secrets&qt=results_page. The search bar contains the text "nation of secrets" and a "Search" button. The page header includes the WorldCat logo and a "Beta" badge. A navigation menu shows "Home", "Learn More", and a notification: "You are not signed in (Sign In to WorldCat or Register)".

The search results are displayed under the heading "Search results for 'nation of secrets'". The results are sorted by "Relevance" and show "Results 1-10 of about 175 (.10 seconds)". A "Refine Your Search" sidebar on the left lists categories such as Author, Content, and Format with associated counts. The main results list includes:

- Nation of secrets : the threat to democracy and the American way of life** by Ted Gup. Language: English. Type: Book, Internet Resource. Publisher: New York : Doubleday, ©2007.
- The falls : a novel** by Joyce Carol Oates. Language: English. Type: Book, Fiction, Internet Resource. Publisher: New York : Ecco, ©2004.
- The untold secrets of the Bible the Bible and the mystery of a nation.** by Madacy Entertainment Group. Language: English. Type: Visual Material : Videorecording : DVD video. Publisher: St. Laurent, Quebec : Madacy, ©1999.
- Secrets : a memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon papers** by Daniel Ellsberg. Language: English. Type: Book, Internet Resource. Publisher: New York : Viking, 2002.
- The Bible and the mystery of a nation** by Madacy Entertainment Group. Language: English. Type: Visual Material : Videorecording : VHS tape.

This screen shows the display after inputting a search. “Refine Your Search,” on the left side of the screen, allows limiting the results based upon information found in those results. This may include selecting by author, content, format, language, or year. Sorting can be changed from the default “relevance” to title, author, or year (descending or ascending).

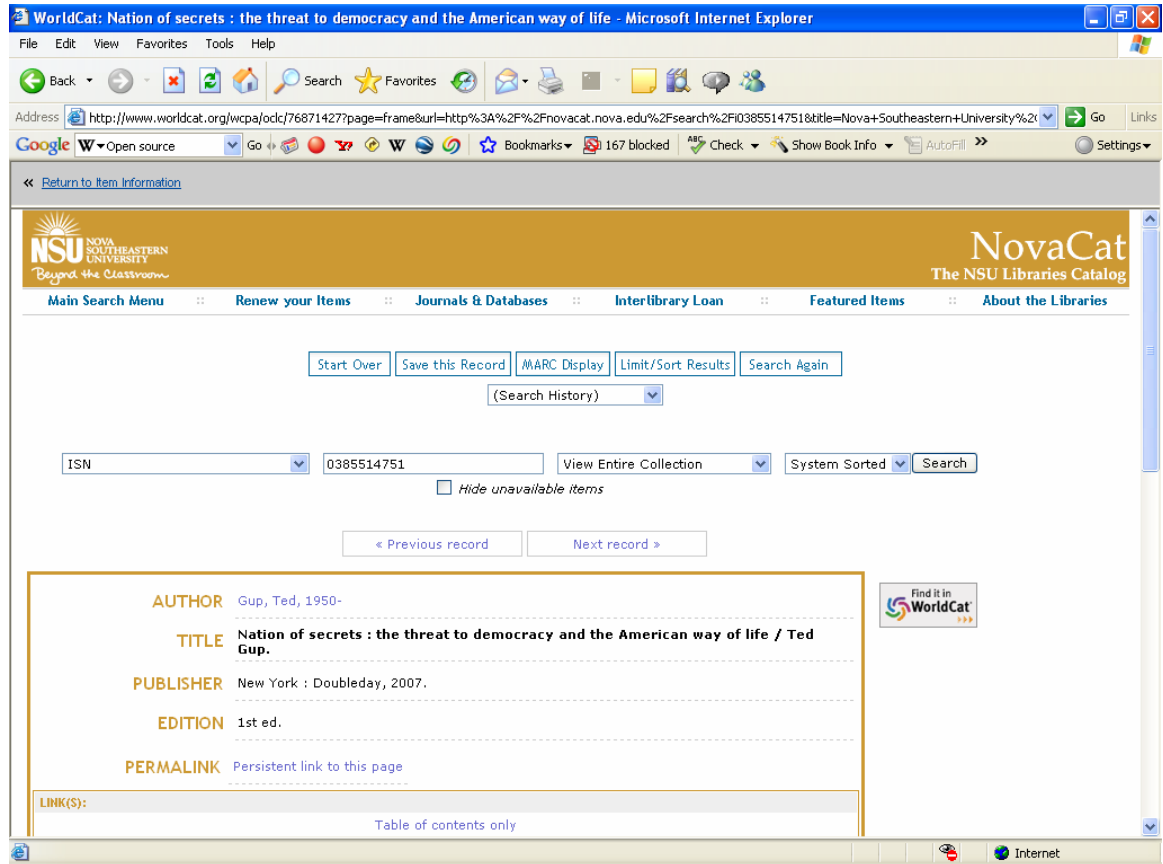
The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the WorldCat search results for the book "Nation of secrets : the threat to democracy and the American way of life" by Ted Gup. The search term "nation of secrets" is entered in the search box. The page provides detailed information about the book, including its language (English), type (Book and Internet Resource), publisher (New York : Doubleday, ©2007), ISBN (9780386514750 and 0386514751), and OCLC number (76871427). It also lists subject headings: "Official secrets -- United States", "Freedom of information -- United States", and "National security -- United States".

Below the book details, there are tabs for "Libraries", "Details", "Subjects", and "Reviews". The "Libraries" tab is active, showing a location search for "33314" (Fort Lauderdale, FL). The results list two libraries:

Library Name	Location	Distance
Nova Southeastern University, Law	Ft Lauderdale, FL 33314 United States	< 1 mile
Miami-Dade Public Library System	Miami, FL 33130 United States	21 miles

Each library entry includes a "Book" icon and a "Services" link to "Library Information". On the right side of the page, there is an advertisement for Amazon.com, promoting "Books, Electronics, Music" with a "Click here" button and a "Privacy Information" link.

After you locate and click on the title you want, you will see the screen above. Here you can get more information on the title such as the assigned subject headings which can link you to other materials on that subject. You can see if it is located nearby simply by putting your, or other, zip code in the location information box. WorldCat will then show you which libraries own that work arranged with the nearest libraries first and will show the approximate distances. From this screen you can access a library's online catalog or its general information page. You can also decide to purchase the title by clicking on the link to Amazon or the "Buy It Now" link (not shown in the above screen) if the title is checked out or otherwise unavailable in a convenient time frame. OCLC has agreements with the booksellers to return a percentage of sale proceeds to OCLC for continued support of the Open WorldCat.



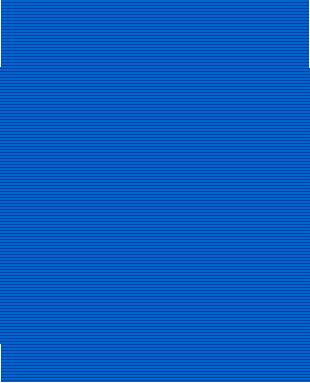
After choosing the link to a library catalog, you will usually see the catalog record for that title (screenshot above). In some instances you may be taken to the library's catalog, but you may need to perform a title search again to get to the appropriate record. You may have noticed that the Web site is labeled as "WorldCat Beta;" that is because the site is still in beta testing. There are still some glitches as not all libraries have had an opportunity to make sure the links to their own Web pages have been updated and some libraries may still choose to "opt out" of the Open WorldCat. Mostly this lets you know that OCLC is still working to improve the service. Additionally, there is a feedback link at the bottom of the Web page so you can let OCLC know what you think.

Please give WorldCat a try sometime. I think you will find it an interesting and wonderful tool. If you can't think of anything to search for, try your own name. Haven't you always wondered how many libraries bought your books?

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

Faculty & Staff Publications

Jane Cross: *Eugene Dupuch Law School Hoses Second ACLI Summer Law School Conference in Nassau*, THE AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN LAW NEWS, vol. 1, no 2, p. 1 (2007) (co-author).



Debra Curtis: *Critical Reading and Law School Success*, presented June 2007, at the Institute for Law School Teaching Conference on New Frontiers on Teaching and Learning held at Suffolk University School of Law, Boston, MA.

Judith Karp: *Critical Reading and Law School Success*, presented June 2007, at the Institute for Law School Teaching Conference on New Frontiers on Teaching and Learning held at Suffolk University School of Law, Boston, MA.

