WorldCat Local

What Is It?

WorldCat Local (WCL) is a discovery service developed and maintained by OCLC and introduced around 2007. It provides access to more than 1.9 billion electronic, digital, and physical resources. In addition to indexing the contents of WorldCat, WCL also provides a central index that represents more than 2,200 e-content collections. A key, optional aspect to the service is a behind-the-scenes knowledgebase (KB) for managing those e-content collections. The KB is known as WorldShare Management Services Collection Manager, or WMS Collection Manager for short.

WCL will eventually be replaced by a newer interface called WorldCat Discovery. Both interfaces draw upon the same data behind-the-scenes but provide very different user experiences.

How Might It Relate to SFX?

Libraries that use SFX can use its KB to seed the WMS Collection Manager, upon initial implementation and also for ongoing updates in order to keep data between the two in sync. OCLC developed a mapping process for this purpose.

How Can SFX Be Integrated with WorldCat Local?

Libraries can create an Advanced Export Profile in SFXAdmin that exports all data to a MARC XML file. This file can then be loaded onto an OCLC FTP site, and OCLC Support can then review the data and proceed to load it via a matching process into WMS Collection Manager. The process usually takes 2-3 business days and can be done on a one-time basis, or on a set schedule, as frequently as monthly.

In addition, SFX can be integrated into the end user interface of WCL, providing an option for linking to full text or other local services such as ILLiad at the click of a button within the full record display in WCL.

Libraries have the option of not using WMS Collection Manager, relying instead on the SFX service button link (e.g. "Find It @ Wheaton") for determining access to e-content. If libraries choose to use WMS Collection Manager, users will be presented with a "View Now" display in brief search results display for each record that is powered by data managed there.

Are There Pros and Cons for Integrating SFX with WorldCat Local?

Yes, definitely.

Pros
- Integration leverages the effort made to maintain SFX and allows you to reuse it for WCL.
- Including the familiar branded SFX service (e.g. "Find It @ Wheaton") within the full record display for individual search results provides a consistent user experience with other e-resources.
- Frequently, SFX KB data is more up-to-date and well-maintained than the data in WMS Collection Manager.

Cons
- In theory, the SFX KB and WMS Collection Manager provide the same service, but in reality, they are very different in coverage of e-resource collections. For example, each service may not have an equivalent e-resource collection, and even if they do, title coverage may vary considerably.
- They are also very different in the methods used to maintain them, and in ways in which users interact with them.
- The effort required to keep the two in sync is very considerable, and in some cases, impossible. In some implementations, libraries have therefore chosen to not implement WMS Collection Manager, or stopped using SFX.

Where Is More Information?

A general guide to WCL is available at http://www.oclc.org/worldcat-local.en.html.

Information about setting up SFX as a data source is available at https://www.oclc.org/support/services/collection-manager/documentation/map-titles.en.html.