

INTERLIBRARY LOAN AND DOCUMENT SERVICES FOR GENEALOGISTS

By Judy Janes

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WORLDCAT

The Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) is a global cooperative of member libraries throughout the world. Its members produce and maintain WorldCat. OCLC member libraries may choose to catalog their holdings in WorldCat database, but are not required to do so. In 2015 WorldCat contained more than 336 million records with 2.2 billion cataloged items, and it is the world's largest bibliographic database covering 72,000 libraries. The Family History Library has catalogued more than 1 million items in WorldCat. WorldCat.org lets you find an item of interest and then locate a library near you that owns it. www.worldcat.org

A KEY RESOURCE FOR GENEALOGISTS

WorldCat offers genealogists a single catalog where they may find family, county and town histories, abstracts of official records, bible records, manuscript collections, historical newspapers, photographs, microforms, digital items, and audio and video recordings. You may find items you never knew existed.

WORLDCAT SEARCH TECHNIQUES

WorldCat allows you to use either the "Simple Search" or the "Advanced Search" feature. "Advanced Search" allows you to use more focused search techniques such as keyword, book title, or author. Searches can be narrowed further by limiting results to non-fiction books, type of format, or language.

- Try Boolean searches: OR, AND, and NOT – "Flowers NOT plant" "Flowers AND Mississippi"
- Exact search terms: "York County, Pennsylvania" OR "York County, PA"
- Wildcard: # represents a single character: "Rap#lye" = Rapalye or Rapelye
? represents one or more characters: "Rapely?" = Rapelyea or Rapelye
- Double quotation marks " ": place around phrases "Rapelye family history" or "Prince Georges, Maryland"

Cal State University, Dominguez Hills has a very good tutorial about how to use WorldCat.

<http://library.csudh.edu/info/guides/worldcat.shtml#search>

GENEALOGICAL LENDING LIBRARIES

Most genealogy books are not available on interlibrary loan. There are several genealogical lending libraries who do have dedicated collections that circulate via interlibrary loan.

- Family History Library, Salt Lake City – Only microform copies of books may be loaned to local Family History Centers: www.familysearch.org
- Midwest Genealogy Center (Mid-Continent Library), Independence, Missouri: 17,000 circulating titles: <http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy>
- St. Louis County, Missouri – National Genealogical Society's circulating collection: 20,000 volumes circulate: <http://www.slcl.org>
- Sutro Library, San Francisco, California (California State Library) Sutro: <http://www.library.ca.gov/about/sutrosearch.html>
- Cyndislist – A collection of lending libraries <http://www.cyndislist.com/libraries/lending/locality>

FOUND A TITLE YOU WISH TO ORDER THROUGH ILL?

First check the following websites to see if the book or other item has been digitized and made available on the internet:

- FamilySearch.org – 200,000 titles including books from 11 partnership libraries
- Allen County Public Library – 88,400 items
- Heritage Quest – Camarillo Library e Library database – 28,000 books
- Archive.org – 50,000 genealogy items including NARA microfilms
- Haithi Trust – over 10 million volumes from 70 libraries and research institutions, 3.5 million in the public domain
- 250+ Killer Digital Libraries and Archives

Although Google finds books indexed in WorldCat, it provides a unique opportunity to locate books that “not” indexed in WorldCat. Google Books offers full-text search capability which may locate books in which your ancestor's names appear. It will also dig deep enough to notify searchers that the book they desire may be in the VCGS or SCGS libraries, or possibly in small local historical societies or genealogical societies.

THE BOOK YOU DESIRE IS NOT AVAILABLE THROUGH ILL

Contact the holding library or organization directly to see if they are willing to send you photocopies or digital images what you need. If they agree, is there a fee? Another option would be to work with your local library to order the copies for you. Always request a copy of the title page in order to properly source your item.