
Introducing Search/Retrieval via URL (SRU) Record Update

In January 2009, the Online Computer Library Centre (OCLC) and Libraries Australia began to use an exciting new method for ensuring that WorldCat receives records from Libraries Australia in real time.

Known as SRU Record Update, this new approach to data synchronisation will result in many benefits to Australian libraries including rapid record sharing. It ensures that Australian library data in WorldCat, the global library catalogue, is up-to-date.

Further plans for SRU Record Update

Libraries Australia is the second service in the world to use SRU Record Update to WorldCat; the Dutch Union Catalogue was the first. Greater benefits can be achieved as more libraries implement the protocol. The National Library of Australia recommends that libraries consider including SRU Record Update support as a requirement when they are purchasing new library management systems, or when requesting enhancements.

Libraries Australia would like to hear from libraries interested in testing the use of SRU Record Update to receive records from library management systems in Australian libraries, to increase the responsiveness and usefulness of record-sharing.

A team effort

The successful implementation of SRU Record Update is due to the hard work and skill of staff at OCLC in Dublin and Leiden, and at the National Library of Australia. We would like to thank everyone involved in this effort.

About Libraries Australia

- The Libraries Australia service has been hosted by the National Library of Australia since 1981. In July 2007, a new Agreement was struck with OCLC to improve access to WorldCat for Australian libraries
http://www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/documents/faq_oclc_agreement.pdf
(Questions 20 & 21 address SRU Record Update).

About OCLC

- OCLC, founded in 1967 with headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, is a non-profit library membership and research organisation that provides computer-based cataloguing, reference, resource sharing, eContent and preservation services www.oclc.org.

3 March 2009