What is FirstSearch?

FirstSearch is a database that provides users with access to a variety of general and specialized databases, including:

**WorldCat**
Records for forty-one million books and other materials (including video, film, manuscripts, musical scores, computer files, maps) held in libraries worldwide. Updated daily. You can limit by *publication type*, *publication year(s)*, and *language*. Dates included before a 1000 B.C. to present.

**Article1st**
Index of articles appearing in nearly 12,000 journals covering medicine, science, technology, social sciences, humanities and popular culture. Coverage from 1990 to present. Updated daily. You can limit by *year* and *type of article* (e.g., article, case, editorial, proceedings).

**Contents1st**
Table of Contents information from nearly 12,500 journals. Subject/discipline coverage of business, science, social sciences, humanities, medicine, technology, and popular culture. Updated daily. Coverage 1990 to present.

**PapersFirst**
Citations to over 2,380,000 papers presented at conferences and meetings worldwide and received by the British Library. Coverage from October 1993. Updated biweekly.

**Proceedings**
Citations to over 61,000 items received at the British Library from congresses, symposia, conferences, workshops, etc. Coverage from 1993 to present. Updated monthly. You can limit by *subject*, *conference*, *descriptor*, *year* and *language*.

**NetFirst**
Includes over a 105,000 Internet accessible resources including World Wide Web pages and Internet listservs. Updated daily. Dates covered: current.

**World Almanac**

**Electronic Collections Online**
Includes bibliographic information on all journals (over 366,000 records) and indicates which Libraries own the item. Coverage is from 1995 to present. Updated daily.

**Union Lists**
A list of periodicals (journals, magazines, and newspapers) held by OCLC member libraries. Coverage current. Updated two times a year.

Where is FirstSearch?
FirstSearch is available on the ISU Library Home Page at: [http://odin.indstate.edu](http://odin.indstate.edu). To access, place your mouse cursor over Databases on the Library Homepage menu, then click on Alphabetical List. Next, click on "F", and then select FirstSearch. To access individual databases within FirstSearch, click on the letter that corresponds with the first letter of the Database (example: click on "W" to access Worldcat).

Why Use FirstSearch?
- to search a large variety of material very quickly (citations to books, audio, visual, and computer files, Web sources, scores, and journals)
- to access current journal material
- to locate books, journal articles and other material not held locally
How to Search FirstSearch

Once connected to FirstSearch, select the database you wish to search by clicking on the Search in: drop-down box located on the left-hand side of the screen (see the other side for a list of databases). When the search screen appears, enter your terms and click on Search button. Use Help as necessary.

Hint: Choosing Searching: Advanced (on the left-hand side of the screen) allows you to immediately refine your search. In addition to entering your search terms, you can set your Search type (subject, author, title) and limit by any combination of years, publication type (e.g., books, media, serials), language and by items that owned by Indiana State University Library.

Search results appear as an abbreviated listing. Click on each entry to see the full record.

Options

- Click on Libraries button to find out which Libraries own an item or to check to see if the ISU Library has the item in its collection.

- To Get the Item: Click on the button and fill out the online form. OCLC will forward your request automatically to the ISU Interlibrary Loan Office for processing. Fill out the form and click on Submit. OCLC will respond with:

  Your ILL request was sent successfully.

  Remember, this service is restricted to ISU students, staff and faculty.

- Email Record to yourself (or others): Click on the button, fill out the form then click on Send. OCLC will respond with:

  Your mail has been sent to (your e-mail address)

- Mark Records: from the abbreviated or the detailed listing by clicking on the box located next to each listing. This is useful if you want to print or e-mail a long list of item records. All of your marked items will be listed then you then have the option of emailing or printing your records. You can email up to 100 records at a time.

- Print: Click on button. Then use Internet Explorers or Netscape’s Print/Print Preview options as usual to print the document.

Change databases at any time by clicking on List All under Databases (located on the left-hand side of the screen). When finished, click on Exit.

For further assistance in using OCLC’s FirstSearch, contact the Information Desk (812) 237-2580 or via the Ask a Librarian Service under the Ask Reference Questions button on the Library Homepage <http://odin.indstate.edu>

Technical problems in connecting to FirstSearch via the WWW should be reported to the Information Desk at (812) 237-2580 or by using the e-mail form at <http://odin.indstate.edu/forms.dir/reform.html>
Licensing agreements limit use of OCLC to ISU users and/or in-library use.

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