

Melvyl@UCSF Pilot

FAQs

What is the Melvyl@UCSF Pilot?

This is a project to create a replacement for the current Melvyl Catalog, which is the joint catalog of all ten University of California (UC) campuses. The pilot will enable users to see not only what is at their own institution but also what is available at all the UC campuses and globally. It is a joint project of the UC libraries and OCLC*.

Who can try this out?

Anyone can try the pilot system, whether on a UC campus or elsewhere.

Why should I try this pilot?

Since this pilot is substantially different from the existing Melvyl Catalog, user feedback is essential to help managers determine whether it meets the needs of UC students, faculty, and staff.

How long is this pilot in effect?

The pilot will be launched in April and will last at least six months.

What can I find in it?

The database includes books, journals, movies, maps, music scores and recordings, computer files, dissertations, government documents, and other items held by the libraries of the ten UC campuses. Some on-order and in-process records as well as records for UC books being digitized by Google are included. There are also citations for articles in education (from journals indexed in ERIC), medicine and health (from journals indexed in MEDLINE), U.S. government publications (from journals indexed in GPO), and general topics (from journals indexed in ArticleFirst), with links to full-text or print-copy information for journals for which there is a UC subscription.

Records from some campus affiliated libraries are not included. Also not in the pilot system are records for resources with minimal cataloging; records from campus affiliated libraries; and records from the California Academy of Sciences, California Historical Society, California State Library, Center for Research Libraries, Graduate Theological Union, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and UC Hastings College of the Law. If you are searching for items you know to be in your catalog and do not find them, use the current Melvyl Catalog (<http://melvyl.cdlib.org/>).

If I see a title I want at another library, can I get it?

Yes, UC users can use UC-eLinks to place an interlibrary borrowing request to obtain an item from another library.

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campus affiliated libraries; and records from the California Academy of Sciences, California Historical Society, California State Library, Center for Research Libraries, Graduate Theological Union, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and UC Hastings College of the Law. For these, check the current Melvyl Catalog (<http://melvyl.cdlib.org>).

Article citations other than those indexed in ArticleFirst, ERIC, GPO, and MEDLINE are *not* included.

How should I search?

For help in searching, click on the “Get Help” link in the upper navigation bar on the search screen.

How are resources displayed?

Resources are sorted in order of relevance, with items at the local campus shown first. You can sort by author, title, and date, and search results can be refined in a number of ways. Click on the Get Help link in the upper right-hand corner of the results screen for more information.

This catalog also contains article citations. Can I get the full text of the articles?

Yes, where the UC libraries have a subscription to an electronic journal, you can access the full text of an article by using UC-eLinks. You can also use UC-eLinks to find out where print copies of the journal are located.

Can I use this to search for materials at my local public library?

Yes, you can enter your zip code and search local libraries first.

How can I request materials?

At the beginning of the pilot, use UC-eLinks to request materials. Later in the pilot, the Request service available in the current Melvyl Catalog will be added to the pilot.

How can I provide feedback about this pilot?

Provide feedback by using the Survey button at the top right of the screen or through the Feedback link at the bottom of the screen. In the help section, you can also find a link to “Ask a Librarian” at your campus. We want to hear from you!

What is OCLC?

OCLC is the Online Computer Library Center, a non-profit, membership computer library service and research organization serving an international network of libraries. OCLC services help libraries locate, acquire, catalog, access, and lend library materials.

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