



Introducing OCUL

Ontario Council of University Libraries

- 20 universities: 17 English speaking, 3 Bilingual
- <http://www.ocul.on.ca>

The Ontario Scholars Portal

- <http://www.scholarsportal.info>
 - a unique set of shared information resources and services made available to all researchers and students
1. Scholarly Information Resources – full text content
 2. RACER - access to collections



What is RACER?

RACER *rapid access to collections by
electronic requesting*

Rapid Access to Collections by Electronic Requesting

- Fretwell- Downing's VDX and ZPortal software
- Zportal - Z39.50 standard for virtual catalogue
- VDX - ISO ILL standard for ILL requesting / management
- <http://racer.scholarsportal.info>

RACER *recherche accélérée pour commander
électroniquement rapidement*



RACER - Why / When / How?

OCUL System inefficiencies - combination of Aviso, home-grown, some libraries without an automated system to manage ILL, doc del & ILL

Fall 1999 to 2 groups reviewing software

Winter 2000 Tri-University Group of Libraries / University of Toronto

March 2000 Consortial purchase of Fretwell-Downing's software recommended

April 2000 OCUL ILL Task Group established

**May 2000 to
May 2002 FD contracts, equipment purchases, Project staff hired**



Timelines in the RACER Project

Summer 2002	Overall system configuration OCUL Virtual Web catalogue set up
Fall 2002	First 8 institutions configured, staff trained. Testing begins
Winter 2002 to Summer 2003	Additional 9 institutions configured, staff trained. Testing begins
June 2003	First 8 institutions go into production
Fall 2003 to Spring 2004	Libraries from additional 8 institutions go into production. French end user interface work
Summer 2004	Software upgrade. Complete implementation for remaining libraries



Key Features of RACER for End Users

- anytime, anywhere access to interlibrary loan
- Z39.50 searchable virtual Web Catalogue – OCUL plus more
- Auto-populates ILL request form
- Check the status of their requests online
- Receive email notification for receipt of materials
- English and French Language interfaces

RACER

Search / Standard Search

Search

[Standard Search](#)
[Advanced Search](#)
[Search History](#)

My Account

[Saved List](#)
[Saved Searches](#)
[Create Request](#)
[My Requests](#)
[Search Profiles](#)
[Account Details](#)
[Sign Out](#)
[Help](#)



Type the word or words you want to search. You can search for a complete phrase by typing it in quotation marks ("gone with the wind"). For more searching options, go to the [Advanced Search](#) page.

Standard Search

Current Profile: Other Canadian Universities - French [shared]

Search Term: Ontario - public libraries [shared]

Collections:

- Ontario Universities [shared]
- Ontario Universities - Business [shared]
- Ontario Universities - Education [shared]
- Ontario Universities - Fine Art [shared]
- Ontario Universities - French Language [shared]
- Ontario Universities - Law [shared]
- Ontario Universities - Medicine / Health [shared]
- Ontario Universities - Music [shared]
- Other Canadian Universities [shared]
- Other Canadian Universities - French [shared]
- Other Canadian Universities - Law [shared]
- Union Catalogues - National Libs [shared]

☒ [Ecole des H](#)

☒ [Universite B](#)

☒ [Universite d](#)

☒ [Universite de Sherbrooke](#)

☒ [Universite McGill](#)

☒ [Universite Laval](#)

[Select All](#)

[Deselect All](#)



[Advanced Search](#)

Search

Standard Search
Advanced Search
Search History

Results

Search Results
Sort Options
Merge Duplicates
Search Status

My Account

Saved List
Saved Searches
Create Request
My Requests
Search Profiles
Account Details
Sign Out
Help



Request Item

SUBMIT

Please Choose ☒ Borrow ☐ Photocopy

Copyright Type:

**Title of Book: Dancing girls and other stories

Subtitle:

**Author(s)/Editor(s): Atwood, Margaret, 1939-

Sponsoring Body:

Part Details

If you only require a copy of part of this item then please enter details here.

Author of Chapter/Article/Paper:

**Title of Chapter/Article/Paper:

**Date Published: c1977.

**Volume/Issue:

**Pages (e.g. 2-16):

Publication Details

Series title and numbering:

Publisher: McClelland and Stewart

Place of Publication: Toronto

Edition:

ISBN (Leave blank if unknown): 0771008104 : \$10.95

ISSN (Leave blank if unknown):

Reference Source: Carleton University/INNOPAC

Material Type: Monograph

Additional Information

**This item is not needed after (e.g. 19 APR 2005): 01 AUG 2004

Special Instructions:



Key Features of RACER for Staff

- **Simple interface in “real time” - Web accessible ILL Management system**
- **We’re in it together – common OCUL database/set up, central support**
- **Automating processes - patron records upload or Web self registration, catalogue checking (local blocking, list of potential lenders)**
- **Time savers – bulk processing options, PDF workflow reports (picklists, bookbands, labels)**

BibSearch

Requests

User

Location

Reports

Logout

Help

Barcode
OWT.TIG...



Your Library's Role

☐ Responder

☐ Requester

☒ Both

☐ Display sent messages only

☐ Display Not Supplied requests

Status

Authorisation Status

Last Action

Service Level

Service Type 1

Log Message Type

Request Status

ART-cancel-request-pending
ART-Conditional-ABS
ART-Conditional-DUP
ART-Conditional-fiche
ART-Conditional-film

Other fields

ILL No Or

ILL No Or

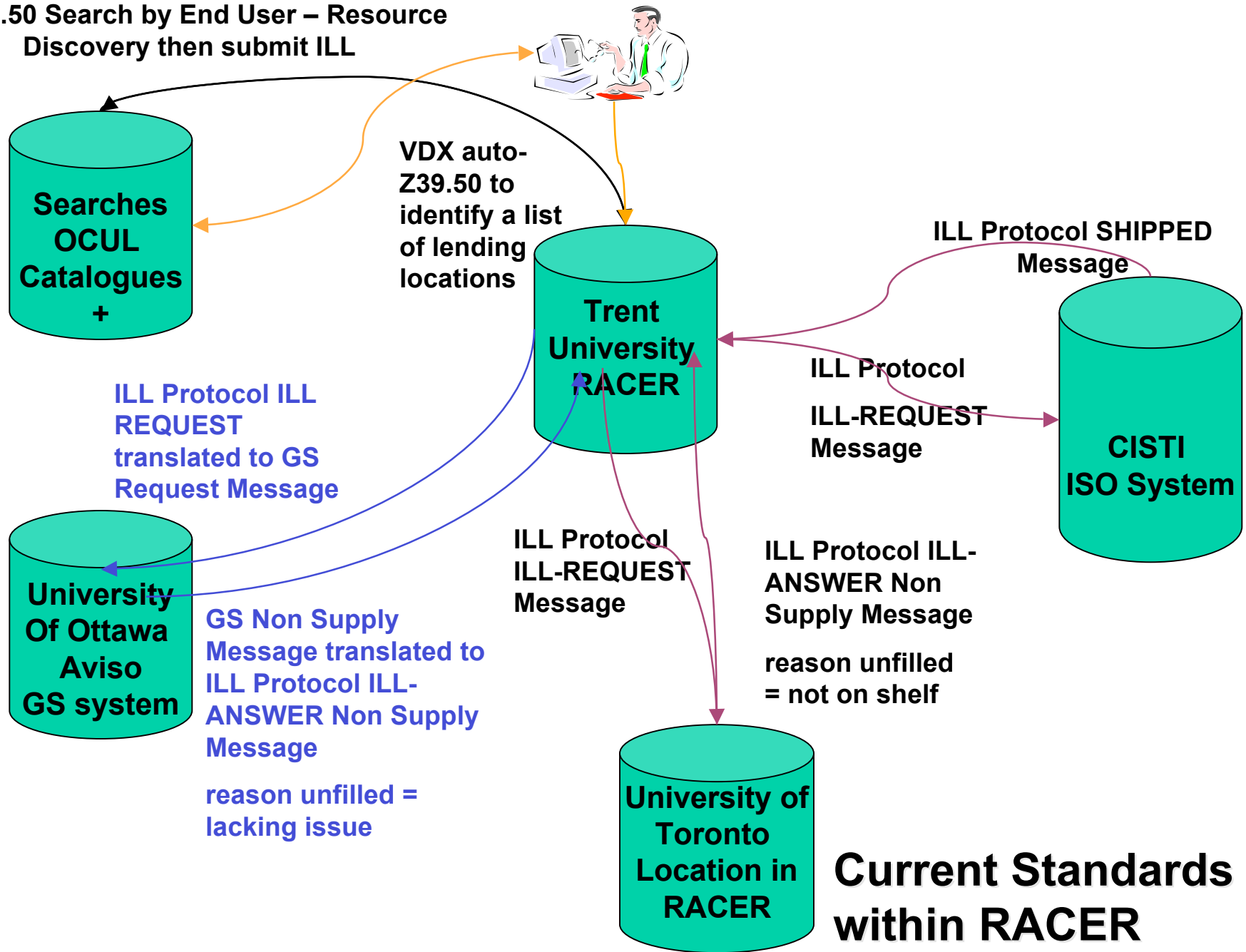
ILL No

Sort by ILL No ☒ descending ☐ ascending

Format ☒ Standard ☐ Print

Records per page 10

**Z39.50 Search by End User – Resource
Discovery then submit ILL**





Who do we Message with and How?

ISO Within OCUL, Other VDX sites (BLDSC, SOLS), CISTI, National Library, ILL Manager (completing testing), Relais (testing), more to test...

Generic Script Translates incoming GS to ISO / outgoing ISO to GS

AMICUS. All libraries using GS. Use with RSS GS translator. Also use for partial messaging with libraries without automated systems.

External Web request form for incoming non system requests http://illforms.scholarsportal.info/vdx_illreq.htm

Outside RACER OCLC can message with VDX (OCUL not set up yet. Still use Passport outside of RACER) Docline interoperability testing summer 2004?



Is ISO to ISO Stress Free?

Scenario 1

**Learning curve cause errors
-training - staff “tweaking” needed to ensure
staff at each side action consistently**

Scenario 2

**Interoperability issues cause errors
-programming – major system “tweaking”
needed when messages aren’t received/sent**

Scenario 3

system, or

**Local system settings cause errors
-settings – minor system “tweaking” needed
when fields are not accepted in one
not in the current format**



Has RACER made a Difference?

A quote from Trent's student newspaper, the Arthur

For all the other books you need that weren't found on Topcat, you can use the Inter-Library Loan program, RACER, to get practically any book you want (I am still in awe of this program -- you should definitely check it out). One might say that, with the high-speed internet and programs like RACER, the world is at our fingertips.

**TRANSFORMING RESOURCE SHARING
THE OCUL EXPERIENCE
with Carol Stephenson**

**CLA
& BCCLA
2-0-0-4**



Linking Systems: Transforming Resource-Sharing Through ISO ILL and Other Standards

For More Information

RACER

TEAM RACER

racer.support@utoronto.ca

<http://www.scholarsportal.info/vdx/support/index.html>

<http://racer.scholarsportal.info/>

OCUL Projects

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