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?

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 - Why / When / How?**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1999</td>
<td>2 groups reviewing software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2000</td>
<td>Tri-University Group of Libraries / University of Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2000</td>
<td>Consortial purchase of Fretwell-Downing's software recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2000</td>
<td>OCUL ILL Task Group established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2000 to May 2002</td>
<td>FD contracts, equipment purchases, Project staff hired</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Timelines in the RACER Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2002</td>
<td>Overall system configuration OCUL Virtual Web catalogue set up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2002</td>
<td>First 8 institutions configured, staff trained. Testing begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2002 to Summer 2003</td>
<td>Additional 9 institutions configured, staff trained. Testing begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2003</td>
<td>First 8 institutions go into production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2003 to Spring 2004</td>
<td>Libraries from additional 8 institutions go into production. French end user interface work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2004</td>
<td>Software upgrade. Complete implementation for remaining libraries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Search / Standard Search

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.
**Request Item**

**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):** 0771009104 : $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)
Z39.50 Search by End User – Resource Discovery then submit ILL

Searches
OCUL Catalogues +

VDX auto-
Z39.50 to
identify a list
of lending
locations

Trent
University
RACER

CISTI
ISO System

University
Of Ottawa
Aviso
GS system

GS Non Supply
Message translated to
ILL Protocol ILL-
ANSWER Non Supply
Message
reason unfilled =
missing issue

Ill Protocol ILL-
REQUEST
translated to GS
Request Message

Trent
University
RACER

ILL Protocol
ILL-REQUEST
Message

University of
Toronto
Location in
RACER

ILL Protocol
ILL-REQUEST
Message

CISTI
ISO System

ILL Protocol
ILL-REQUEST
Message

ILL Protocol
ILL-ANSWER Non Supply
Message

reason unfilled
= not on shelf

Current Standards
within RACER
### Who do we Message with and How?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISO</th>
<th>Within OCUL, Other VDX sites (BLDSC, SOLS), CISTI, National Library, ILL Manager (completing testing), Relais (testing), more to test…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generic Script</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Web request form for incoming non system requests</td>
<td><a href="http://illforms.scholarsportal.info/vdx_illreq.htm">http://illforms.scholarsportal.info/vdx_illreq.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside RACER</td>
<td>OCLC can message with VDX (OCUL not set up yet. Still use Passport outside of RACER) Decline interoperability testing summer 2004?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario</td>
<td>Cause of Error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 1</td>
<td>Learning curve cause errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 2</td>
<td>Interoperability issues cause errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 3</td>
<td>Local system settings cause errors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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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