Users conduct searches in WorldCat Discovery

Each search returns a result set in the form of WorldCat records.

Metadata for each result/record is sent to the knowledge base using an OpenURL request.

The knowledge base uses this metadata to check each collection for full-text access.

The union of metadata between records and the knowledge base identifies full-text access and creates links in WorldCat Discovery.
WorldCat knowledge base

Building full-text links

When the metadata from a result / record overlaps with that of a title in the knowledge base, we build a link to full-text.

To build this link, we combine data stored in the knowledge base with the data in the record / result:

Knowledge base + Record = View Now

Although this general pattern is the same for all links, content providers require different variations on this formula to create links to their platforms. Some more and some less complex.
Creating a link to full-text requires combining data from the knowledge base with that in an article citation to create a request. This request must meet the expectations of the provider and conform to the capabilities of the platform.

For eBooks, creating the appropriate request is relatively uncomplicated.

For article or chapter-level links, an additional step is needed.

Platforms have specific expectations and limitations on how requests can be constructed, especially as it pertains to articles.

WorldCat central index is a collection of article citations from many different sources. The knowledge base’s full-text links must work with article citations from these and every other source.

To reconcile the user’s need for broad discovery with the discrete linking expectations of the providers, a link scheme is used to format article and chapter-level requests.

The link scheme compares the provider’s expectation for different levels of linking with the article’s metadata, and creates the closest possible link to your resource.