The WorldCat Metadata API – Functionality comparison

Versions 1.x of the WorldCat Metadata API were decommissioned on 30 April 2024 and are now inoperable – users should upgrade to 2.0 to avoid disruptions to their workflows. Libraries with an existing API key for the WorldCat Metadata API 1.x can use that key to access the WorldCat Metadata API 2.0 but code changes are necessary. To determine what you need to change, please refer to the technical documentation. For assistance, contact OCLC Customer Support. If a library does not have an existing API key, one can be requested on the API Keys page.
If you also use the Collection Management API, you can compare functionality using this table.

	Version 2.0	Version 1.1	Version 1.0
Record Management Features			
Formats supported for record read and write	MARCXML, textual MARC21	Atom MARCXML	Atom MARCXML
Read and write WorldCat records	✓	✓	✓
Read and write Local Bibliographic Data Records (LBD)	✓	✓	✓
Read and write Local Holdings Records (LHRs)	✓		
Maintain Shared Print Retention Commitments	✓		
Maintain Holdings in WorldCat	✓ OCLC Number or full MARC record with OCLC Number embedded	✓ OCLC Number	✓ OCLC Number
Maintain Holdings in WorldCat for another institution	✓ /manage/institution/holdings with additional Institution Registry ID specified as "Context"	✓ /ih/institutionlist/	✓ /ih/institutionlist/
Validate WorldCat records	✓	✓	✓
Record Search Features			
Formats Supported for Search results	JSON	JSON	OCLC Number only
Search WorldCat	✓	✓	✓ OCLC Number only
Search WorldCat and receive single best-match WorldCat bibliographic record from multiple matches	✓		
Search Local Bibliographic Data (LBD)	✓	✓ Limited to OCLC Number or control number	✓ Limited to OCLC Number or control number
Search Local Holdings Records (LHRs)	✓ Limited to OCLC Number, control number, or barcode	✓ Limited to OCLC Number, control number, or barcode	
Search Shared Print Retention Commitments	✓	✓	
Find the most popular Library of Congress and Dewey classification numbers for a bibliographic record	✓		

Leveraging a scalable infrastructure, OCLC APIs share fundamental building blocks, like design patterns and authentication, to create a more seamless experience across OCLC services. This API-first strategy allows for more capabilities and data accessibility via APIs so our developer community can build custom solutions and integrations more easily. Learn more at oc.lc/developer.