

WorldCat Digital Collection Gateway – Frequently Asked Questions

What is WorldCat Digital Collection Gateway?

The **WorldCat Digital Collection Gateway** provides collection managers a self-service capability to synchronize their *metadata* with WorldCat to give digital collections increased visibility to end-users.

Collection managers use the Digital Collection Gateway to load digital content metadata to WorldCat and in doing so create profiles for their digital content metadata to be regularly harvested, uploaded, and converted to WorldCat format. In return for uploading WorldCat assigns and returns an OCLC number which can be embedded in the digital content metadata to support future synchronizations.

End-users can search and discover digital content from WorldCat (and all the places WorldCat appears on the web) and click through to your local CONTENTdm server to use your unique digital content.

The Gateway is replacing the WorldCat Metadata Harvesting Program previously used by CONTENTdm collection managers to load digital content metadata to WorldCat. The WorldCat Metadata Harvesting Program is being discontinued with the introduction of the Gateway and CONTENTdm 5.1. If you were in the queue for loading metadata through the WorldCat Metadata Harvesting Program the Digital Collection Gateway will give you a self-service capability to get your metadata synchronized with WorldCat on a schedule you determine.

When should I use Digital Collection Gateway?

You should use the Digital Collection Gateway any time you want to start making your digital collections more visible to end-users. Metadata uploaded to WorldCat through the Gateway makes your collections more visible. Even if you're not completely finished building your collection you can start uploads. Each time the Gateway uploads metadata from your collection to WorldCat you can update all the records you've previously uploaded ("Replace all Records") or simply add new records ("Add New Records") from your collection.

What is the difference between "Replace all Records" and "Add New Records"?

These are two different upload options that you can set in the Gateway for each collection being synchronized with WorldCat.

Replace all Records takes all the current records in your CONTENTdm collection and replaces the corresponding records in WorldCat. If there are brand new records in the collection, then those are simply added to WorldCat as new records.

Add New Records uploads only the new records in your collection that have not been added to WorldCat previously.

Does re-harvesting account for edits in CONTENTdm records? For example, if I harvest in January and then edit data in my subject fields, will those changes be picked up in WorldCat if the collection is harvested again in February?

Yes. *The Digital Collection Gateway accounts for edits in CONTENTdm records by replacing them fully in WorldCat. When you set up a profile for your collection in the Digital Collection Gateway you will have the choice to replace all records each time you harvest or to simply add new records not previously harvested.*

Will institutions get cataloging credits for records that are harvested from CONTENTdm into WorldCat via the Digital Collection Gateway?

No. *The Digital Collection Gateway is a service provided at no additional charge to CONTENTdm users to increase the visibility and use of their digital collections by sharing the metadata in WorldCat.*

If I have already harvested my collections into WorldCat will harvesting them via the Digital Collection Gateway create duplicate records?

No. *The Digital Collection Gateway will recognize records previously harvested through the WorldCat metadata harvesting program. When you set up the profile for your collection in the Digital Collection Gateway you will have the choice to replace all records each time you harvest or to simply add new records not previously harvested.*

How will duplicates be handled? For example, if my organization has a rare book that we've digitized and harvested, what happens if another institution harvests that same book?

The Digital Collection Gateway will not create duplicates. Each record uploaded to WorldCat is uniquely linked back to the specific CONTENTdm server and collection from which it was uploaded. If your institution has a rare book in a CONTENTdm collection the WorldCat record for the digital manifestation of that rare book is unique within WorldCat.

I'm using Connexion digital import to load records into one of my CONTENTdm collections. Should I use the Digital Collection Gateway?

It depends ...

If you only use Connexion digital import to load items into your CONTENTdm collection then there is no need to use the Digital Collection Gateway. With Connexion digital import you've hand-coded a bibliographic record in WorldCat for each item you've uploaded. If you use Connexion digital import exclusively to load content into a CONTENTdm collection there is no need to harvest records back into WorldCat.

If you load some items into a CONTENTdm collection using **Connexion digital import** and other items into the collection using the **Project Client** or **Web Add function** of CONTENTdm you can still use the Digital Collection Gateway to synchronize your entire collection with WorldCat. Items uploaded using **Connexion digital import** are already in WorldCat, so they don't need to be synchronized and are ignored by the Gateway during processing. All the other records in your collection are processed by the Gateway according to the record processing settings you've chosen, either "replace all" or "add new only".

A long time ago I had my CONTENTdm collection harvested and loaded to WorldCat through the "Register with WorldCat" function in CONTENTdm Administration. What happens if I register the collection I had previously harvested through that mechanism?

If you've previously loaded digital content metadata into WorldCat using the "Register with WorldCat" function in CONTENTdm Administration you have two choices about how to do future synchronizations with WorldCat. The Digital Collection Gateway has a profile for each collection that can be set to "Replace All" or to "Add New Only".

*If you select "**Replace All**" the Digital Collection Gateway will recognize existing records in WorldCat and replace them with the records currently in your CONTENTdm server.*

*If you select "**Add New Only**" the Digital Collection Gateway will only add records not previously synchronized with WorldCat.*