What is OWLCat?

OWLCat is the online catalog of the SUNY Old Westbury Library. With it, you can find books, periodicals, movies, and other materials held in the Library. You can search OWLCat by title, author, subject, or by a number of other criteria. You can send your search results by email, or save them to a disk. This brief tutorial will help you get started with OWLCat, but feel free to visit or call the Library Reference Desk (516-876-3151) if you need further assistance.

Accessing OWLCat

Find OWLCat on the Library Web Page:
www.oldwestbury.edu/library
(or use the Library tab at the top of the Campus home page)

Click on Online Catalogs on the left side of the page

Choose OWLCat from the list of Online Catalogs (the first one on the list)
Doing a search with OWLCat...

The default page is a basic search—choose Advanced Search (tab at the top) for more options.

Enter search terms in the text boxes—you may have to try different terms to get the best results!

With the dropdown menus, you can choose to identify a search term as a title, author name, subject, and many others.

Also, you can use operator terms like AND, OR, and NOT to guide and focus your search.

Your Search Results

If there are multiple results, they will look like this. Click on the title of the book you want.

This is the full record of the book, including publisher, size, and length.

This line shows the shelving code. It does not, however, tell you if the book is actually available.

Click on this line to go to the Holdings Page, where you can find out if the book is available.

Need more help? Call SUNY College at Old Westbury Library at (516) 876-3151 or visit our Web site at www.oldwestbury.edu/library
The Holdings Page

This is the Holdings Page. It tells you whether a title is available, and in what format.

If the item is out on loan, the date on which it is due will be listed here. If it is not out on loan, it will be marked as "available", like this title.

Item status: This column tells you if the book can be taken on loan, or just used in the library, or can only be viewed for a few hours.
Collection: This area tells you which collection the item belongs to (such as Periodicals, Circulating, or Reference).
Call #: This column again shows you the shelving code, to help you locate the book in the library.

Finding an Item Using the Call Number

- Each item in the library is issued a Call Number that you can use to locate the item in a library collection.
- **Important:** The first step in locating an item is to make sure you know which collection in the library holds the item. In OWLCat, you can find out which collection the item is in by looking at the Holdings page (see above). It could be on the second floor in Reference, downstairs in the Curriculum Materials Center, in the Circulating collection, and others.
- Once you know which collection holds the item, you can use the item’s Call Number to find it.
- Academic libraries like the SUNY Old Westbury Library normally use the Library of Congress Classification system. The basics of this system are shown below:

Library of Congress Classification System

The first two lines are coded by subject. This part of the shelving code will get you to the general location. The first line is alphabetical, and tells you the general topic. The second line is numerical, and refines the topic.

The third line is a coding of the author’s name (or, in some cases, the organization that created the book).

The last line is the year of publication.

For more information on the Library of Congress classification system, visit the Library of Congress Web site at: [http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/lcco/]
Finding Periodicals Using OWLCat

- Finding Periodicals in OWLCat is easy, fast, and it gives you an accurate answer as to whether we have access to the periodical you’re looking for.
- Access OWLCat as described on Page 1, then go the Advanced Search page (use the tab at the top).

### Advanced Keyword Search

| Change Collection: Active Old Westbury Lib
| --- |
| Title | Journal of Applied Psychology
| All Fields |  
| Words adjacent? | No
| Format | Serials
| 

#### Limit search to:

- **Year from:**
- **Year to:**

#### Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Cover</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Link to Full Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Child study journal</td>
<td>Periodical</td>
<td>(1 owned / 0 out) Is it here?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Journal of applied behavior analysis</td>
<td>Periodical</td>
<td>(1 owned / 0 out) Is it here?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Journal of consulting psychology</td>
<td>Periodical</td>
<td>(2 owned / 0 out) Is it here?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hall, G. Stanley</td>
<td>Journal of applied psychology</td>
<td>Periodical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Holding Page

- The holdings page will tell you whether the item is available, and in what format.
- If the periodical is available electronically you can link to it here.
- The holdings page will also tell you if we have the journal in microform or paper (“periodicals” indicates paper).

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