

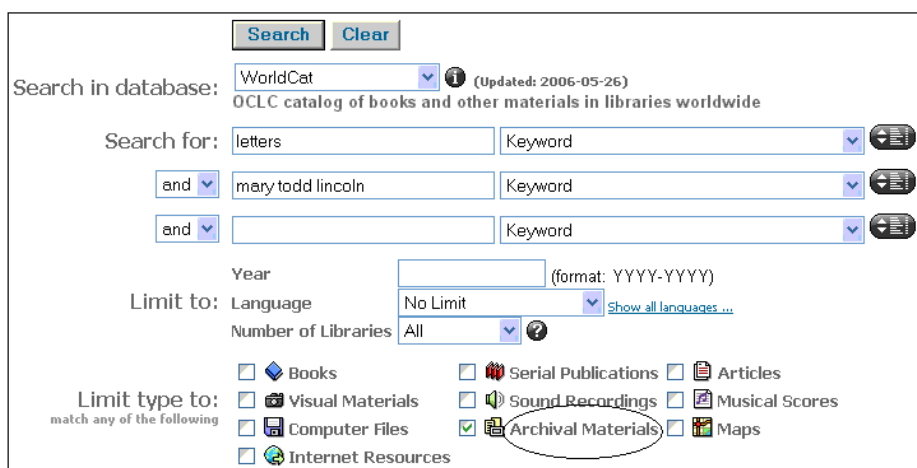
## TUTORIAL: Locating Humanities Resources in WorldCat

WorldCat is an online index to millions of records representing works from countries the world over. Items date back as far as 1000 B.C. and include items in about 400 different languages. WorldCat is an invaluable resource for humanities scholars. Its online indexing allows users to find works by subject headings, and its catalog information tells the user what libraries own the works.

Not to be confused with WorldCat.org, the free version of WorldCat. It has less records.

### Locating Primary Sources in WorldCat

The Advanced search features can be used to explore many aspects of a humanities topic. Here's a search I did looking for letters of Mary Todd Lincoln. I wasn't sure of subject headings, so I searched on keyword.





The screenshot shows the WorldCat search interface. At the top, there are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. Below that, the search is set to 'WorldCat' (OCLC catalog of books and other materials in libraries worldwide). The search criteria are: 'letters' (Keyword), 'and mary todd lincoln' (Keyword), and 'and' (Keyword). The 'Year' field is empty with a format hint '(format: YYYY-YYYY)'. The 'Limit to:' section includes 'Language' set to 'No Limit' and 'Number of Libraries' set to 'All'. Under 'Limit type to:', the 'Archival Materials' checkbox is checked, and it is circled in red. Other options include Books, Visual Materials, Computer Files, Internet Resources, Serial Publications, Sound Recordings, Musical Scores, and Maps.

Note that there's an "Archival Materials" filter. I selected that in the hope of finding primary source materials.

This search retrieved 42 citations – none of which led me to letters written by Mary Todd Lincoln.

However, several citations to other sources written by contemporaries of Mary Todd Lincoln caught my eye. (Remember, humanities scholars love to browse.)

I clicked into the citation circled below.

- 9.  [1809-1946. Papers.](#)  
Author: Morris family.; Morris, John Emery,; Morris, Mary Felt, and others Publication: 1809-1946  
Document: English : Archival Material  
Libraries Worldwide: 1  
More Like This: [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)  
[See more details for locating this item](#)
- 10.  [Papers, 1850-1866.](#)  
Author: Henry, Anson G., 1804-1865. Publication: 1850-1866  
Document: English : Archival Material : Microform  
Libraries Worldwide: 1  
More Like This: [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)  
[See more details for locating this item](#)



Here's the WorldCat record for those archival papers.

Note how the LC subject headings used by WorldCat can help humanities scholars locate materials by:

- (1) Descriptors (which include the primary sources – diaries, correspondence);
- (2) Genre/Form (again, primary sources, diaries and letters);
- (3) Geographic locations;
- and (4) Time period indicators. The “Notes” field tells where the material is located.

**Papers,**


Anson G Henry

1850-1866  
English  Archival Material :  Microform 1 reel.

Papers include: Handscript and typescript copies of journal (1852) describing Henry's overland journey from Springfield, Illinois (April 6, 1852) to Portland, Oregon (October 22, 1852); correspondence (1855-1866) discussing the politics of Oregon and the Washington Territory, the sentiments of settlers in the region during the Civil War, Henry's activities while visiting Washington, D.C....

GET THIS ITEM

Availability: **Check the catalogs in your library.**

- [Libraries worldwide that own item:](#) 1
-  [Search the catalog at GALILEO to Display Locations from Georgia Libraries Journal List \(GOLD\)](#)

FIND RELATED

More Like This: [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)

Find Items About: [Papers](#) (147); [Henry, Anson G.](#) (max: 13); [United States.](#) (3,534,028)

Title: **Papers,  
1850-1866.**

Author(s): [Henry, Anson G., 1804-1865.](#)

Corp Author(s): [United States.; Dept. of the Interior.; Appointments Division.](#)

Year: 1850-1866

Description: Microfilm: 1 reel.

Language: English

Abstract: Papers include: Handscript and typescript copies of journal (1852) describing Henry's overland journey from Springfield, Illinois (April 6, 1852) to Portland, Oregon (October 22, 1852); correspondence (1855-1866) discussing the politics of Oregon and the Washington Territory, the sentiments of settlers in the region during the Civil War, Henry's activities while visiting Washington, D.C. in 1865, and a letter (August 13, 1865) written by Noah Brooks to Eliza Henry notifying her of Dr. Henry's death; Department of the Interior records (1850-1866) concerning the appointment of Anson G. Henry as Surveyor General of the Washington Territory and other matters related to governmental operations in the territory. Correspondents include Abraham [Lincoln](#) and Eliza Henry.

SUBJECT(S)

Descriptor: [Overland journeys to the Pacific.](#)  
[Pioneers -- Oregon -- Diaries.](#)  
[Pioneers -- Oregon -- Correspondence.](#)

Named Person: [Henry, Anson G., 1804-1865 -- Correspondence.](#)  
[Henry, Anson G., 1804-1865 -- Diaries.](#)  
[Henry, Eliza Bradsteet -- Correspondence.](#)  
[Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 -- Correspondence.](#)  
[Brooks, Noah, 1830-1903 -- Correspondence.](#)

Named Corp: [United States. Dept. of the Interior. Appointments Division -- Archives.](#)

Genre/Form: [Diaries.](#)  
[Letters.](#)  
[Federal government records.](#)

Geographic: [Oregon National Historic Trail.](#)  
[West \(U.S.\) -- Description and travel.](#)  
[West \(U.S.\) -- History -- 1848-1860.](#)  
[Oregon -- Politics and government -- To 1859.](#)  
[Oregon -- History -- To 1859.](#)  
[Washington \(State\) -- Politics and government -- To 1889.](#)  
[Washington \(State\) -- History -- To 1889.](#)

Note(s): The personal papers of Dr. Anson Henry are located at the Illinois State Historical Library and the records of the Department of the Interior are held by the National Archives. / **Bio/History:** Dr. Anson Gordon Henry was born in 1804, in Richfield, New York. After graduating from medical school, he moved to Springfield, Illinois to begin a medical practice and soon became acquainted with Abraham and [Mary Todd Lincoln](#). In 1852, Henry and his family moved to Oregon and he was eventually appointed by President [Lincoln](#) as the Surveyor General for the Washington Territory. He was in Washington, D.C. attempting to secure another political appointment when the assassination of [Lincoln](#) occurred. While traveling back to the Washington Territory, Henry drowned in the shipwreck of the steamer "Brother Jonathan."

Entry: 19960302

Update: 20050111

Material Type: Microfilm (mfi)

Document Type: Archival Material

Accession No: OCLC: 34302854

## Locating Primary Sources by Subject

You can use WorldCat and many other online indexes and catalogs to locate primary sources by subject headings. For example, here are a few headings from WorldCat that may lead to biographical primary source material:

Autobiography	Memoirs
Correspondence	Personal narratives
Diaries	Slave narratives
Journals	Slave writings

Here's a search on personal narratives. Note that in WorldCat, a heading with two or more words needs to be set to "Subject Phrase."

Search in database:  ⓘ (Updated: 2006-06-01)  
OCLC catalog of books and other materials in libraries worldwide

Search for:

Year:  (format: YYYY-YYYY)

Limit to: Language:  [Show all languages ...](#)

Number of Libraries:  ⓘ

Limit type to:  Books  Serial Publications  Articles  
 Visual Materials  Sound Recordings  Musical Scores  
 Computer Files  Archival Materials  Maps  
 Internet Resources ⓘ

match any of the following

I followed the citation to Arthur Ashe's memoir, *Days of Grace*.

Here's an excerpt from the record showing the work's subject headings. We could follow either of the "Personal Narratives" links to find more personal accounts written by other people with AIDS or by other tennis players.

Title: **Days of grace :  
a memoir /**

Author(s): [Ashe, Arthur ; Rampersad, Arnold.](#)

Publication: New York : Alfred A. Knopf : Distributed by Random House,  
Year: 1993

Description: xii, 317 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.

Language: English

Standard No: ISBN: 0679423966 : LCCN: 92-54919

SUBJECT(S)

Descriptor: [Tennis players -- United States -- Biography.](#)  
[AIDS \(Disease\) -- Patients -- United States -- Biography.](#)  
[Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome -- Personal Narratives.](#)  
[Tennis -- Personal Narratives.](#)  
[Tennis.](#)  
[AIDS.](#)


Named Person: [Ashe, Arthur.](#)

Geographic: [7.150.](#)

Note(s): Includes index.

## Locating Secondary Sources in WorldCat

Blazek and Aversa (in the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of your textbook) recommended a series called the *Garland Reference Library of the Humanities*. I was unfamiliar with this series, so I first tried seeking information on it through Google. This produced many links to Amazon records representing works in the series. I wanted a nice list showing all the works. So, I set the title to “Series Title” and designated Garland as “Publisher.”

Search in database: WorldCat  (Updated: 2006-06-01)  
 OCLC catalog of books and other materials in libraries worldwide


Search for: reference library of the humanities Series Title

and ▼ garland Publisher




and ▼ Keyword




Year: (format: YYYY-YYYY)




Limit to: Language: No Limit [Show all languages ...](#)



Number of Libraries: All 

Limit type to: match any of the following

 Books   Serial Publications   Articles

 Visual Materials   Sound Recordings   Musical Scores

 Computer Files   Archival Materials   Maps

 Internet Resources 

This search retrieved 1684 records – 1661 in English. Even assuming that a percentage of these records are duplicates of the same title, the Garland Reference Library of the Humanities still covers an amazing range of topics.

I clicked into the citation on *The Arthurian Encyclopedia*.


12.  [The American Revolution, 1775-1783 : an encyclopedia /](#)  
**Author:** Blanco, Richard L.; Sanborn, Paul J.  
**Publication:** New York : Garland Pub., 1993  
**Document:** English : Book  
**Libraries Worldwide:** 1163  
**More Like This:** [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)  
 [See more details for locating this item](#)
13.  [The Arthurian encyclopedia /](#)  
**Author:** Lacy, Norris J.; Ashe, Geoffrey.  
**Publication:** New York : Garland Pub., 1986  
**Document:** English : Book  
**Libraries Worldwide:** 1157  VALDOSTA STATE UNIV  
**More Like This:** [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)  
 [See more details for locating this item](#)

Here's the WorldCat record for that work, *The Arthurian Encyclopedia*. Again, take note of the subject headings used by WorldCat. They give us leads on tracking down materials by name and geography and by type of material. In this case, we have links to other encyclopedias.

**The New Arthurian encyclopedia /**

Norris J **Lacy**



1991

**English**  Book xxxviii, 577 p. : ill., map ; 29 cm.  
New York : Garland Pub., ; ISBN: 0824043774 (acid-free paper)

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Availability: **FirstSearch indicates your institution owns the item.**

- [Libraries worldwide that own item](#): 814  **VALDOSTA STATE UNIV**
-  [Search the catalog at GALILEO to Display Locations](#) from Georgia

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FIND RELATED

More Like This: [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)

Title: **The New Arthurian encyclopedia /**

Author(s): [Lacy, Norris J.](#)

Publication: New York : **Garland Pub.**,

Year: 1991

Description: xxxviii, 577 p. : ill., map ; 29 cm.

Language: English

Series: **Garland reference library** of the **humanities** ;; vol. 931;

Standard No: **ISBN**: 0824043774 (acid-free paper) **LCCN**: 90-23700

SUBJECT(S)

Descriptor: [Britons -- Kings and rulers -- Encyclopedias.](#)  
[Arthurian romances -- Encyclopedias.](#)  
[Cycle d'Arthur -- Dictionnaires anglais.](#)  
[Cycle d'Arthur -- Bibliographie.](#)  
[Koning Arthur.](#)  
[Letterkunde.](#)

Named Person: [Arthur, King -- Encyclopedias.](#)  
[Arthur, King.](#)  
[Arthur, roi -- Dictionnaires anglais.](#)  
[Arthur, roi -- Bibliographie.](#)

Geographic: [Great Britain -- Antiquities, Celtic -- Encyclopedias.](#)  
[Great Britain -- History -- To 1066 -- Encyclopedias.](#)

Identifier: Tales

Note(s): Rev. and expanded ed. of: The Arthurian encyclopedia. 1986.  
Includes bibliographical references (p. xxix xxxii) and index.

Class Descriptors: **LC**: [DA152.5.A7](#); **Dewey**: [809/.93351](#)

Other Titles: Arthurian encyclopedia.

Responsibility: edited by Norris J. Lacy ... [et al.].

Vendor Info: Baker & Taylor (BKTY) 125.00 **Status**: active

Document Type: Book

Entry: 19901102

Update: 20060407

Accession No: **OCLC**: 22731717

Database: WorldCat

The information in the Notes field can be very useful, too. In this particular case, we see that this is a revised and expanded edition of the 1986 publication. “Revised” indicates that content was changed, not just added. An Arthurian scholar looking for how texts on Arthur have changed over time may want to compare coverage from a newer edition to that of an older edition.

## Locating Tertiary Sources in WorldCat

Tertiary sources are works that are derivatives of secondary sources. An index is a tertiary source. Humanities scholars are often looking for bibliographies of works on particular topics, and bibliographies are tertiary sources.

The term “Bibliography” is a subject heading in WorldCat. That means it can be used as a search term to help a scholar or a student locate those works.

Books on how people dressed in a certain decade or era are of interest to historians, theater majors, and humanists studying popular culture. There are a number of subject headings that pertain – clothing, costume, fashion. Here’s my WorldCat search that I used to locate bibliographies on costume. Note that the WorldCat heading for bibliography is singular. Knowing this, I set the search to Subject.

Search in database: WorldCat (Updated: 2006-06-01)  
OCLC catalog of books and other materials in libraries worldwide









Search for: costume Subject  
and bibliography Subject  
and Keyword

Year (format: YYYY-YYYY)  
Limit to: Language No Limit Show all languages ...  
Number of Libraries All

Limit type to: match any of the following

- Books
- Serial Publications
- Articles
- Visual Materials
- Sound Recordings
- Musical Scores
- Computer Files
- Archival Materials
- Maps
- Internet Resources


I retrieved a lot of interesting hits, but many of these bibliographies were old. When recommending bibliographies to scholars and students, you want to help them ascertain whether the resources listed in the bibliography are obtainable as well.

- 31.  [The literature of fashion;](#)  
Author: Laver, James, Corp Author: National Book League (Great Britain)  
Publication: London] Cambridge Univ. Press, 1947  
Document: English : Book  
[Libraries Worldwide](#): 43  
More Like This: [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)  
 [See more details for locating this item](#)
- 32.  [Bibliography of theses and dissertations on ethnic textiles and dress](#)  
Author: Cerny, Catherine A.; Baizerman, Suzanne.; Eicher, Joanne Bubolz.  
Publication: Monument, CO (PO Box 1360, Monument 80132-1360) : International Textile and App  
Document: English : Book  
[Libraries Worldwide](#): 41  
More Like This: [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)  
 [See more details for locating this item](#)
- 33.  [Costume, a list of books.](#)  
Corp Author: Detroit Public Library.  
Publication: [Detroit] Detroit public library, Fine arts department, 1928  
Document: English : Book  
[Libraries Worldwide](#): 40  
More Like This: [Advanced options ...](#)  
 [See more details for locating this item](#)
- 34.  [A reading and reference list on costume.](#)  
Corp Author: Brooklyn Public Library.  
Publication: Brooklyn, N.Y., Brooklyn Public Library, 1909  
Document: English : Book  
[Libraries Worldwide](#): 38  
More Like This: [Advanced options ...](#)  
 [See more details for locating this item](#)

I returned to the search form and limited the date range from 1990 to 2006. This search produced a list of about 61 books. Here's one that caught my attention:


**Eastern European costume bibliography and geography glossary :**  
as represented in the Henry Art Gallery's costume collection.

Henry Art Gallery.

1992-1993  
**English**  Book 1 v. (various pagings) ; 28 cm.  
[Seattle, Wash. : Henry Art Gallery],

GET THIS ITEM

Availability: **Check the catalogs in your library.**

- [Libraries worldwide that own item:](#) 1
-  [Search the catalog at GALILEO to Display Locations](#) from Georgia Libraries Journal List (C)

FIND RELATED

More Like This: [Advanced options ...](#)

Find Items About: [Henry Art Gallery.](#) (28)

Title: **Eastern European costume bibliography and geography glossary :**  
**as represented in the Henry Art Gallery's costume collection.**

Corp Author(s): [Henry Art Gallery.](#)

Publication: [Seattle, Wash. : Henry Art Gallery].

Year: 1992-1993

Description: 1 v. (various pagings) ; 28 cm.

Language: English

SUBJECT(S)

Geographic: [Costume -- Europe, Eastern -- Bibliography.](#)

Class Descriptors: LC: [G720](#)

Document Type: Book

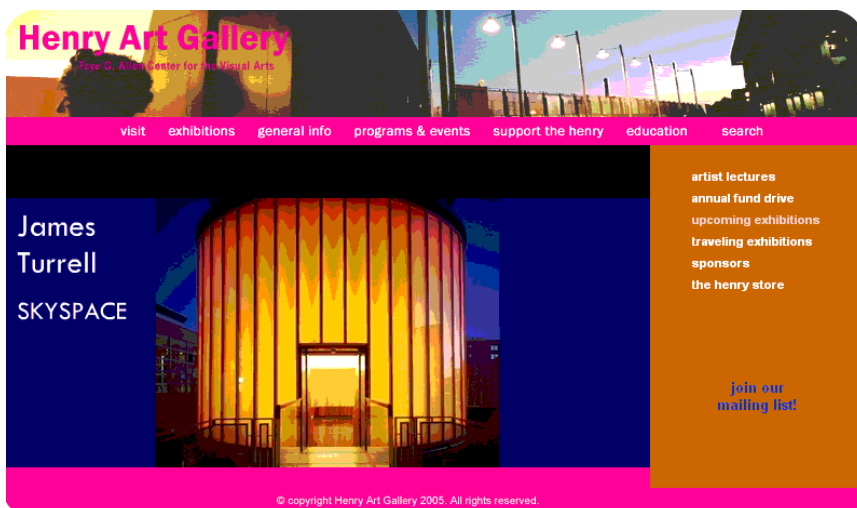
Entry: 19950106

Update: 20040314

Accession No: OCLC: 31775150

Database: WorldCat

The record indicates only one owning library – probably the Henry Art Museum library. Costume is one area in which you can find some spectacular digitized material on the Web. So, I looked up the Henry Art Museum Web site, but struck out on finding a costume gallery.



At any rate, you can see how WorldCat can assist with the location of primary resources!