How do I set up the link-to-OPAC feature in WebDewey?

Applies to
- WebDewey

Answer

What this feature does

Links to your OPAC and sends a DDC number, allowing you to search library catalogs for DDC numbers from within WebDewey.

How to set up this feature

While logged on to WebDewey, click the Preferences link to go to the Preferences screen. Note that the Dewey number search for the Library of Congress search is pre-programmed for you.

In the input box, paste or type the URL that's used in your OPAC for a call number search. If you frequently search more than one OPAC, you can store multiple URLs with the OPAC option; the feature routes to the call number index of the OPAC you've selected as your default. Because the URL may be rather long, the text you enter is repeated below the input box so that you can check the accuracy of the URL in its entirety.

Before you save the URL specified in the OPAC URL input box, you can enter a DDC number and test the feature. Your OPAC must recognize a DDC number within the URL syntax. Example: the OPAC URL for a call number search at Capital University (Columbus, Ohio) is http://charli.capital.edu/search/c. This is the URL you enter if you want the Capital University OPAC to be your default OPAC. To search for the DDC number [DDC#], WebDewey sends: http://charli.capital.edu/search/c[DDC#]. Your system may require more complex syntax. If you need help with setup, contact your system administrator for the URL, index identifier, and syntax required for call number searches in your OPAC.

Turn off or adjust popup blockers

Software that blocks display of popup advertisements from Web sites can interfere with the link to OPAC feature in Dewey Services. OPAC search results appear in a new browser window, which the popup blocker prevents from opening. For best results, turn off popup blocking software, or if you prefer to keep a popup blocker active, configure the software to allow popup windows from the domain oclc.org and from the URL used to link to your local library catalog.

First things first: Those of you with Innovative Interfaces, Inc. OPACs can probably stop reading now; it's likely your URL...
syntax is simply your library’s domain name, and /search/c placed at the end of the URL. (See the Capital University example in the paragraph above, or see the table below.) Now, that was easy, wasn’t it?

If the above paragraph didn’t help, don’t despair.

1. First, go to your OPAC and do a call number search.
2. Copy the URL from the result of your search (this URL will be in your browser’s address bar). Copy the URL to the input box in the OPAC Options area and look at it carefully—then enter a DDC number (e.g. 641.2) and click Test. (Or see How to set up this feature paragraph above). If your test doesn’t work, you’ll need to adjust the URL. Below are some pointers on how to adjust the URL.
3. When you construct the URL that sends a call number search to your OPAC, remember you can:
   a. **Rearrange the widgets.** Broadly speaking, a widget is the data that occurs between ampersands (or slashes). In many cases, you can rearrange the widget (they’re often not order specific) to get the result you want. This means that the ampersand can be moved to another part of the URL without causing the search to fail. This guideline will make more sense as you read on.
   b. **Remove the session specific information.** Your URL may contain session-specific data. You will need to remove this data to prevent a timeout message from your OPAC when you use the link feature in WebDewey.

   **Example:**
   
   http://nucat.library.northwestern.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?Search_Arg=332.09&SL=None&Search_Code=CALL&PID=18046&SEQ=20050725145812&CNT=25&HIST=1

   In the above string, you’ll want to remove the session-specific portion of the URL (i.e., *PID=18046&SEQ=20050725145812*).

   The final, correct construction of the URL that sends a Dewey number search to the call number index is
   
   http://nucat.library.northwestern.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&BROWSFWD=1&CNT=25+records+per+screen&SID=CallNumber&SA=

   c. **Move search arguments to the final position in the URL.** We mentioned above that your OPAC must recognize a DDC number within the URL syntax, specifically, at the end of the URL.

   **Example:**
   
   http://library.ilcso.illinois.edu/ui/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&BROWSFWD=1&CNT=25+records+per+screen&SID=CallNumber&SA=

   In the above URL, SA (refers to search argument) is placed at the end of the URL. If you find a similar syntax in your URL and it’s not at the end of the string, move the ampersand and the identifier to the end of the URL, and test it. Now that you know widgets are generally not order specific, you can piece together your URL by placing (if applicable) the ampersand, index identifier, and search argument to the end of the URL. So don’t be shy! Move those widgets around! They won’t bite!

   d. **Try a varying widget identifier.** If your URL doesn’t work correctly, sometimes it helps to try another variant of that identifier.

      i. Search Argument (**&Search_Arg=** vs. **&SA=**) 

      **Example:**

      In the following Voyager OPAC URL widget, **&Search_Arg=** (i.e., Search Argument) is substituted for **&SA=** (i.e., also Search Argument), but only the second variant works. That is,

      http://library.ilcso.illinois.edu/ui...ber&Search_Arg=
does not work, but

http://library.ilcso.illinois.edu/uu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?&DB=local&BROWSEFWD=1&CNT=25+records+per+screen&SID=1&SC=CallNumber&SA=

does.

The following examples show URLs that work with WebDewey's link to OPAC feature, by OPAC vendor. This list is not exhaustive. If your vendor isn't listed below, it may still work. If your vendor is listed below, but your test doesn't work, it needs adjustment. In this case, talk to your systems administrator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VENDOR/SYSTEM</th>
<th>TEMPLATE URL SYNTAX</th>
<th>EXAMPLE THAT SUCCESSFULLY SEND CALL NO.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>COMPanion Corporation/Alexandria</td>
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Troubleshooting pointers

Note: This information is intended to help you implement a link to your OPAC from WebDewey; however, it's not an exhaustive list.

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