

## Why you should not depend solely on an ISBN search in WorldCat...

The screenshot shows the WorldCat search interface. At the top, the search bar contains '1559700130 dlc' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar are links for 'Advanced Search' and 'Find a Library'. The search results are for '1559700130 dlc' > 'Book'. The results list shows two items:

- 1.** [Across the creek](#) by Marya Smith  
Print book : Fiction : Juvenile audience  
Language: English  
Publisher: New York : Arcade Pub., ©1989.
- 2.** [Willy can count](#) by Anne F Rockwell  
Print book : Fiction : Juvenile audience [View all formats and languages »](#)  
Language: English  
Publisher: New York : Arcade Pub., ©1989.  
[View all editions »](#)

On the left side, there are filters for 'Open Content', 'Format', and 'Refine Your Search'. The 'Format' filter shows 'Print book (2)' selected. The 'Refine Your Search' section shows 'Author' with links for 'Anne F Rockwell (1)' and 'Marya Smith (1)', 'Year' as '1989', and 'Language' as 'English'.

The example above clearly demonstrates that ISBNs are recycled. I did an ISBN search: 1559700130. I limited my search by format (books), and then added **dlc** after the ISBN to limit my search results to DLC (Library of Congress) copy.

Note that I had two titles pop up in my result list. Different titles. Different authors. The ISBN is a number assigned by the publisher, so it's no surprise that both titles were published by Arcade in 1989.

And that's my point. ISBNs can be recycled. When a publisher stops printing a run on a particular title, the ISBN is back up for grabs, and is then re-assigned.

I hope this helps demonstrate why you should use both numeric searches (like the ISBN) AND combination keyword searches when you search both the library catalog and WorldCat.

### REMEMBER...

Holding codes that you can use to limit your search results in WorldCat:

- DLC for Library of Congress copy
- NLM for National Library of Medicine copy
- UKM for United Kingdom (Great Britain) copy
- TEFMT for Midwest Tapes (i.e., great for AV titles)

MARC records created under these holding codes are more likely to contain:

- Classification numbers (LC, Dewey)
- Table of contents notes
- Subject headings