OCLC/First Search/Worldcat (Access to Interlibrary Loan)

This is a powerful tool for research. Although it recently became public access, if you want to use this to order interlibrary loan, you must first set up your computer as a proxy (see earlier notes in this packet on how to do this).

On the main library web page, choose “Databases & Indexes”
On this page choose “W”
And on this page, choose “WorldCat”
Now you should see a page like this:

This page is relatively self-explanatory. The online help function is relatively clear and useful.

Useful Hints:

- If you want to enter CJK characters, you must first change the language of the screen interface. You do this at the bottom of the screen by clicking the appropriate language. THEN you must toggle your language bar in Windows also.
- If you only want to see CJK characters, but don’t want to change the language of the interface, click on “show non-Roman characters” in any entry that displays it.
- By clicking the “Limit availability” box, you can limit your search to just the UAlbany collection. Why do this? Because OCLC is a much better search engine than Minerva.
NACSIS/Webcat Plus

NACSIS-CAT is the online cataloging system which the National Institute for Informatics (NII) in Japan provides. The main purpose of the system is to construct the union catalogs of books and serials covering the whole country through cooperative data entry (shared cataloging) from participating university libraries. In other words, NACSIS is an extension of Worldcat, giving you more information about books in Japanese university libraries. You cannot use NACSIS for interlibrary loan, but you can use it to find bibliographic information.

NACSIS is part of the Webcat Plus system, which is described on their website (http://webcatplus.nii.ac.jp/en/) as follows:

What is Webcat Plus?: Outline

Webcat Plus is part of the NII Academic Contents Portal (GeNii), whose construction is being promoted by the National Institute of Informatics (NII). Using an “associative search function” that closely mimics human thinking, Webcat Plus can search efficiently for required books from among a huge store of information.

Where does Webcat Plus fit in?

A second–generation Webcat

Since 1998, NII has been operating the Webcat service, which can search for bibliographic and library-related information on books and journals based on a “catalog information database”. The service has proved popular both in Japan and abroad.

NII developed Webcat Plus as a “second–generation Webcat” by significantly enhancing its search functions and performance and by improving usability.

The role of Webcat Plus in GeNii

NII is constructing GeNii, the NII Academic Content Portal, to facilitate research by linking together all forms of academic information available on the Internet so that it can be accessed in an integrated manner.

“Academic information” comes in a wide variety of types — from journal articles and books to information on researchers, research topics, and research results — and is scattered all over the Internet. NII intends to make it efficiently and effectively feasible to obtain this information for technical research by linking it together and establishing a portal for access to it.

Webcat Plus operates within GeNii to provide book information. Although, at present, it is an independent service, it will gradually be linked with other content.

This leads you to GeNii, which is a one-stop shopping experience for academic materials in Japan. Most of what you find on GeNii will be in Japanese, even if there is an English abstract. A small percentage of materials on GeNii and its affiliated databases is available in full-text, like what you’d find on J-STOR or Project Muse. The larger percentage is like BAS: a bibliographic collection, which you can then use to order materials through interlibrary loan.

All of this is rather abstract, so let’s do a concrete search as an example:
Here is the main GeNii page. From here you can run a search across the four databases, or you can be specific and choose which ones you want to search. I’ll type in “Anesaki Masaharu” (a person’s name) in Romanization, and see what we get:
In CiNii there are 6 hits, in Webcat Plus there are 36 hits, in Kaken there are 2 hits, and in Nii-DBR there are no hits. I’m particularly interested in the CiNii hits, because CiNii often has full-text links to the materials. So, let’s click on CiNii and see the complete listings:
Under each entry it indicates whether the full text and/or abstract are available, as we see here for entry 1 and entry 4. Unfortunately, entry 4 is a false hit—some other Anesaki, not the one I’m interested in. But, there is still one hit with full text available. If I click on that icon I get the article itself, as a downloadable .pdf.

The other articles are also of interest, but because the full text isn’t here I’ll have to contact the Interlibrary Loan Office at the main library to get a copy. The information I need to give the ILL office is available here on CiNii.