

A Guide to Using OCLC Macro Language Resources

When starting to write your own OML macros for Connexion Client, it may be a bit overwhelming to try and figure out which resources to use first, what kinds of quick reference materials you will need on hand, and where to go for additional help when presented with a difficult challenge. The intent of this guide is to make your transition into macro writing easy.

Tutorials

OCLC Macro Language for the Complete Beginner (by Joel Hahn, Niles Public Library District, Niles, Illinois)

Description: A must read before attempting to write your own macros (without previous experience).

Available at: <<http://users.rcn.com/aardy/oml/lessons/index.html>>

Writing OCLC Connexion Client Macros the Simple Way (Designed and created by Merry Morris, Free Library of Philadelphia)

Description: Without knowing even the basics, use this easy-to-understand guide to writing simple macros that perform complex repetitive cataloging tasks.

Available at: <<http://computerwhizzard.50megs.com/minimacros.html>>

Examples of Macros Catalogers Use

OCLC-CAT

Description: This is an email subscription list for Catalogers using OCLC products. You can email this list to ask for help in writing a particular macro. Often the macro gurus out there will respond and write a macro for you! Use the url listed below to subscribe to OCLC-CAT (i.e. this is a secure url so do not forget to type **https**):

Available at: <<https://www3.oclc.org/app/listserv/>>

ALA Chicago, 2005: "Using Connexion Commands to Accomplish Cataloging Tasks."

Description: This presentation by Joel and Harvey Hahn gives some practical examples toward the end.

Available at: <<http://www.oclc.org/connexion/support/macros.htm>>

OCLC's Macro Web Page

Description: Provides links to the following catalogers Web sites and their macros:

- Joel Hahn's macros
- Harvey Hahn's macros
- Merry Morris' simple macros
- Walt Nickeson's macros

Available at: <http://www.oclc.org/connexion/support/macros.htm>

Quick Reference

From the manual "Basics: Using Macros" on OCLC's Web site:

<<http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/connexion/client/basics/macros/>>

- List of Connexion Client Macro Commands
 - e.g. *AddField* is the command for adding a MARC field
- Item Types--for use with returning the window type of the current window
 - e.g. *local bibliographic save file list window = 21*
- ASCII and hexadecimal codes for diacritic and special characters
 - e.g. the delimiter is ASCII decimal code 226
- Available status types and values
 - e.g. *DELH* is defined as Delete Holdings status with possible return values of *completed*, (c) *failed*, (f) or – (none)
- Keywords used to send non-printable keys
 - e.g. the *Right Arrow* on your keyboard is expressed as {RIGHT}

From Connexion Client Help Menu:

Help → *Client Help* → *Index* → *Macros*

- *Client Specific Macro commands* and descriptions for:
 - Logging on and off
 - Searching
 - Editing records
 - Creating records
 - Taking actions on records
 - Working with records and lists
 - Printing and working with macros, statuses, and holdings