

What is the **PrairieCat** library catalog and what can it do for me?

The **PrairieCat** library catalog is a powerful tool that will help you locate all types of information quickly and easily.

You can:

- Search your library, other libraries, magazines/journals
- View book reviews and summaries
- Create reading lists using "My Discoveries"

Create a personal account to:

- Place holds on materials
- Cancel your own holds if you no longer need the material
- Renew your own materials online

PrairieCat is web-based and is available from any computer with an Internet connection. Access **PrairieCat** from home at

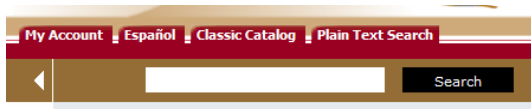
<http://catalog.prairiecat.info>

My default library account PIN is the last four digits of my library barcode:

Using Your Library Catalog



Presenting your new library catalog, placing 8 million items from more than 350 library locations right at your fingertips!

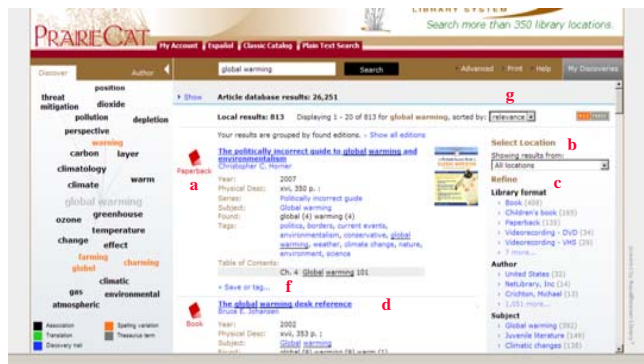


1. To search the library catalog, type a word(s) in the white box then click on Search.

- Basic Search searches all words in the Library Catalog.
- A word cloud on the left side of the screen will display with alternative words associated with your search term. Click on any term if you would like to change to that search.

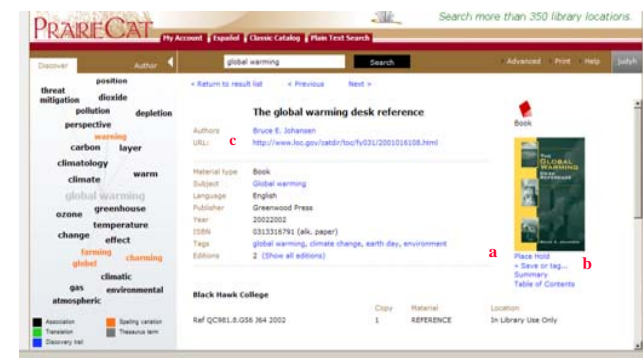
2. Additional features on the library catalog homepage:

- Click on **Advanced** on the toolbar to use the Advanced search form to search by author, title or other options. Click on **Basic** on the toolbar to go back.
- Use the tabs to access the old PrairieCat catalog (**Classic Catalog**), your library account (**My Account**), the Spanish version of the catalog (**Español**), or a text only version to use with your PDA (**Plain Text Search**). Other tabs that may be available are for a kid-friendly version of the catalog, or the Reserve Desk at your academic library.



3. Once you have performed a search, you will see a “Results List” screen like this. The list will display with the most relevant items at the top of the list:

- The red icon to the left of the item shows you what type of material it is (book, DVD, etc).
- Choose **Select Location** and pull down the list to see items belonging to a specific library.
- Use the links under the **Refine** section if you want to limit your results further.
- Click on the title (blue and underlined) for more information about a specific title that interests you.
- Click on **Next** to view the next page of results or **Last** to go to the last page of results.
- Click on **Save or Tag** to add an item to a list or add a tag. You will need to create an account to use these features.
- Change the sorting of your results by using the **Sorting By** pulldown list. You may sort by relevance, year, author or title.



4. Once you have clicked on a title for more information about a specific item that interests you, the detailed record will display. This screen displays:

- Author, title and subject details
 - Type of material (book, video, etc)
 - Location of the item at the library so if it is currently available you can locate it on the shelf.
- Click on **Place Hold** to place a hold on the item
 - Click on **Save or Tag** to add an item to a list or add a tag
 - If the item you are interested in is an e-resource, use the **URL** link to connect to it online. It will say “Electronic Resource” under the title.