Using OAI-PMH to Create and Maintain Records in your EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) Custom Catalog Database

EBSCO supports harvesting your MARCXML records metadata via OAI-PMH to create and maintain your custom catalog database. Using OAI-PMH for automated harvesting bypasses the more commonly used process of exporting a file from your ILS and sending it to us via FTP on a regular basis.

What is OAI-PMH and how does it work?

The Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting is currently the preferable method for providing EBSCO with institutional repository data for inclusion in EDS and is supported by many popular institutional repository providers, such as DSpace.

EBSCO is now able to offer this option for metadata harvesting for EDS Custom Catalog databases, if the following conditions are met:

- You use the MARCXML data format
- OAI-PMH is available and supported by your catalog vendor

Once the process is set-up, EBSCO harvests your catalog records on a daily schedule. We then automatically rebuild the records in your EDS custom catalog database. A new rebuild of your catalog means that records with unique identifiers that do not exist in EDS will be added, records marked as deletions will be deleted, and records that share a unique identifier will be updated with the new record.

In order for EBSCO to access and harvest your catalog records via OAI-PMH, please add the following IP addresses to your network exceptions list:

- 140.234.252.9
- 140.234.253.9
- 140.234.255.9

Set-up for New EDS customers

If you are a new customer, please contact your catalog vendor and determine whether they support OAI-PMH for harvesting MARCXML data. The availability and cost of this service varies by vendor, so please speak with a catalog vendor if you are interested.

After you have confirmed it is supported, complete the catalog questionnaire to assist us with setting up your new custom catalog database. At that time you can provide us with the URL provided by your vendor.
Set-up for Current Customers

If you are currently an EDS customer and utilizing FTP for processing your catalog records, first contact your catalog vendor to determine whether they support OAI-PMH for harvesting MARCXML data. The availability and cost of this service varies by vendor, so please speak with a representative prior to contacting EBSCO Support.

If your vendor is able to support OAI-PMH, they will provide you with a URL which EBSCO uses to fetch your catalog metadata, which you need to provide Customer Support. Send an email, with the URL, to eds@ebsco.com. A catalog specialist will review the records to ensure that we can make seamless transition to OAI-PMH.

If you are interested in more information on using OAI-PMH for an institutional repository click here.