

NetLibrary Authentication Requirements

Authentication is a means by which netLibrary matches library users with their library's eBook collection. There are two ways that users can authenticate to the library's eBook collection, IP address (Internet Protocol address) and Secure Referring URL (Uniform Resource Locator). In order to minimize confusion the library contact should consult with their technical IT staff to decide the best authentication method to use.

IP Authentication

Every computer connected to the Internet has an IP address. This IP address can be detected by the netLibrary website. Your library can give access to its eBook collection by informing netLibrary of its IP address (or range of addresses) used in your network. Please use the following guidelines when submitting your setup information to netLibrary:

- You will need to provide netLibrary with the IP addresses for all computers that will need to access your eBook Collection. Please include branch, campus and remote site IP addresses.
- If you are using a proxy server or firewall to access the Internet, you will need to provide netLibrary with each of these IP addresses. These devices usually expose only one IP address to the Internet.
- IP address ranges entered must be in the following format: x.x.x.x (where "x" is a numeric value from 1 to 254). If a value is left blank then the range between 1 and 254 is assumed in its place. For example: 192.168.34. includes the following range: 192.168.34.1-254. Please include the dot at the end of the range.
- Private IP addresses that begin with 10.x.x.x, 172.16.0-31.x, and 192.168.x.x are not valid on the Internet, thus should not be provided to netLibrary.

Once these IP addresses have been entered into the netLibrary system, all computers with matching IP addresses will have access to the library's eBook collection.

Secure Referring URL

Secure Referring URL is a method of authentication whereby your library provides access to netLibrary only after a user or patron has been identified and authenticated by the library as a valid user. Your library creates a gateway where a user must provide some sort of identifying information (i.e. library barcode) before being linked to netLibrary. The library then links to www.netLibrary.com from behind this protected area and provides the URL for this secure area to netLibrary. When a user links to netLibrary from the secure area upon their arrival at the site, netLibrary can read the secure referring URL field (automatically embedded in the request) and authenticate that user or patron to the proper library and eBook collection. This method of authentication is usually preferable if you do not have unique IP addresses, or you wish to facilitate access for your remote users.

Some libraries have set up a procedure to authenticate users that access netLibrary from their catalog. Every netLibrary MARC record has an 856 field to hold the static URL for the netLibrary bibliographic page, allowing easy access to eBooks from the OPAC. In this authentication method, the library has worked with their ILS vendor or another remote patron authentication (RPA) system to create a gateway through which users have to pass before being taken to the selected netLibrary

eBook. The library provides netLibrary with the secure referring URL for this gateway, which is then entered in the netLibrary authentication tables. In this method, when a user clicks on an 856 link in your catalog, they would be first be taken to an area where they would need to enter identifying information (such as their barcode) and then the user is connected to the specific netLibrary eBook.

- The secure referring URL can either be the host and domain name, or an entire URL string. For example, we can authenticate www.msn.com or www.msn.com/links/library/ebooks.
- Secure referring URL is sometimes (depending on the browser and version) not passed on when coming from a secure page. For simplicity, all links to netLibrary should come from a non-secure page. Secure pages use an https:// prefix instead of an http:// prefix, such as <https://www.msn.com>.
- Secure referring URL is not passed through some Java links to netLibrary. At this time, Java should not be used in the link to netLibrary.
- Secure referring URL will take precedence over IP authentication. If a patron is authenticating via secure referring URL at your library web page and is IP authenticated on a computer at another library, they will end up being affiliated to the secure referring URL library.

Special Notes:

- As stated, the customer or library site can control access to their collection at netLibrary by limiting where the link to netLibrary resides. For instance, the library could choose to set the secure referring URL's differently on different web pages, thus allowing them to authenticate different groups of people.
- For complex networking configurations, both IP and secure referring URL authentication can be used in conjunction to identify a particular netLibrary customer.
- Any user or patron, regardless of authentication type, logging in with a netLibrary username and password will authenticate to the library where the username and password were originally created.
- A firewall is a security device used to safeguard your network from the Internet or some other network. It is the firewall's job to inspect incoming/outgoing data and make certain that it complies with the rules established by the firewall's administrator. Information that does not correspond to the rules is blocked from entering, or exiting the firewall. You may need to notify your network administrator to add all of the netLibrary domain names as an acceptable source of information. The netLibrary domain names are:
www.netLibrary.com
search.netLibrary.com
help.netLibrary.com
emedia.netLibrary.com
- A proxy server is separate from a firewall, but works in conjunction with it to eliminate unauthorized access to your network, and the Internet. A proxy server's purpose is usually to filter outgoing traffic, improve Internet response time, and provide security from the Internet. It, like the firewall, usually uses a single IP address to converse with web sites on the Internet.

If you have any additional questions regarding these authentication options for your library, please contact your OCLC Customer Support at 1-800-848-5800.