

Global Format Registry

System Use Case: **Search For Format Descriptors**

Use Case ID	OCLC-5
Description	Search for format descriptors based on a query object.
Actors	Repository
Assumptions	The query service is open to the general public.
Preconditions	The URI of the service is well-known (via a PURL) or described in some registry (such as UDDI using WSDL). The query object is valid based on the Registry rules.
Triggers	The need to identify a format, match a purported format, find software helpers (such as parsers or translators).
Primary Scenario	The Repository formats a query object using available format attributes.
	The Repository sends the query to the Registry.
	The Registry matches the given arguments against all the registered format descriptors.
Primary Result	The Registry returns the IDs (DOIs) of those format objects matched by the query, ranked by matching accuracy. If no matches were found, an empty list is returned (as opposed to a null response).
Post-Conditions	True.
Architecture requirements (Non-functional)	
Notes	It is more efficient to return the IDs of the format descriptors instead of the format descriptors themselves. While going in a loop through the return set, the Repository can then stop when a meaningful match is reached.
Issues	If one match is 100% accurate, should less accurate matches still be returned? (My initial reaction is no, only one should be returned so that the Repositories' associations are consistent.)