

Welcome to the third SUNCAT newsletter. The newsletter appears twice yearly, to provide a progress report on the SUNCAT Project.

### SEASON'S GREETINGS!

The SUNCAT team would like to wish all our users and Contributing Libraries **\*\*A Happy Festive Season and All the Best for 2007\*\***

### Launch of Full Service

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SUNCAT became a full EDINA supported service on the 1st August 2006. Although this did not bring any significant change to the functionality of the existing service it does signify the end of one phase of SUNCAT's development and the start of the next. The SUNCAT Team would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Contributing Libraries for their hard work over the past three years and also to say that we look forward to working with you as we move onto the challenge of improving the quality of data on SUNCAT.

As a full service SUNCAT has agreed a number of trial Service Level Definitions (SLDs) with JISC to ensure quality and consistency of service to the UK research community. The main performance targets SUNCAT is committed to meet include:

- The service will be available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year with the exception of scheduled downtime which will be notified on the website in advance
- The service will be available 99% of the scheduled uptime
- User response time for a simple search will be under 5 seconds measured locally to the SUNCAT server
- 100% of data received from Contributing Libraries will be uploaded within 70 working days of approval of the data specification by the Contributing Library

Although SUNCAT has moved beyond project mode it is still a "service in development" so there will continue to be additions and improvements as the catalogue is enhanced.

### New Website

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In conjunction with the move to full service the SUNCAT website has been revamped and moved to a new url at <http://www.suncat.ac.uk/>

The new website is organised into a few major areas:

### Homepage

This includes a brief description of SUNCAT and a link to the service. The page also highlights any planned interruptions to the service and notes of immediate interest. In addition there are links to other union catalogues, including COPAC.

### Description

This provides more detail about SUNCAT, including who is involved and the history and scope of the service. From here it is possible to link to a list of libraries already contributing to SUNCAT and also those due to contribute over the next few months.

### Librarians

This section is of interest to Contributing Libraries but also to librarians in general. It includes the benefits of contributing to SUNCAT with a link to the Benefits & Expectations document for Contributing Libraries. The page also provides information about SUNCAT's bibliographic standards and links to documents on how to contribute records to SUNCAT, with a number of case studies from Contributing Libraries.

### Help and Support

Within this section there are FAQs, links to both Quick Start and User Guides in addition to rolling demonstrations of SUNCAT in use. There are also documents for Contributing Libraries relating to the process of providing initial files of records and updates to SUNCAT.

### News and Events

This section provides access to the SUNCAT Newsletter, plus recent news and events, publications and presentations from the SUNCAT team.

### Promotional Material

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EDINA has produced flyers and posters for SUNCAT. These are available free of charge and can be used to promote the service to your local user community. If you would like copies of these for your institution please send your contact details, including name, email, telephone and postal address to [edina@ed.ac.uk](mailto:edina@ed.ac.uk)

### New Libraries on SUNCAT

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Since the last newsletter in June, SUNCAT has loaded in the data from another 12 libraries. This means that there are 61 Contributing Libraries currently in SUNCAT – this includes a diverse range of libraries drawn from across the UK.

The newest libraries include:

About the SUNCAT pilot service

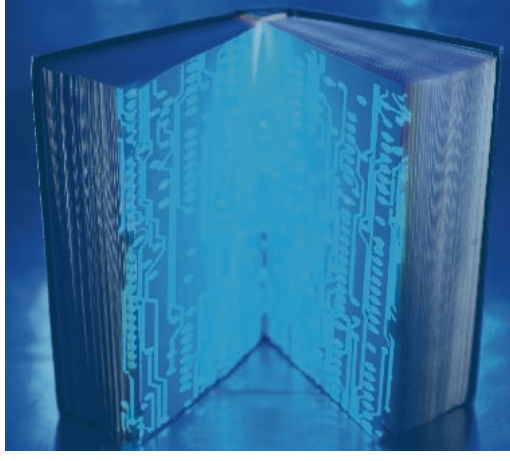
**Basic Search**

Find:  (f) Title Keyword(s) [v]

Words as phrase?  No  Yes

Optional search limits: Location:  All [v] Library:  All [v]

basic search screen



- London Business School
- Manchester Public Libraries
- Napier University
- National Art Library
- National Museums of Wales
- Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh
- Royal Geographical Society
- Royal Society of Medicine
- Sheffield Hallam University
- University of Kent
- University of London Research Library Services
- Women's Library

A further 16 libraries have agreed to contribute to SUNCAT and these are at various stages of processing. It is hoped that we will have them all loaded some time in the New Year. For more information please see the list of Contributing Libraries at [http://www.suncat.ac.uk/description/contributing\\_libraries.html](http://www.suncat.ac.uk/description/contributing_libraries.html)

### Updates

In order to maintain the currency of the SUNCAT database, records from Contributing Libraries need to be updated on a regular basis. To date, this has not been possible, as there have been problems to overcome. However, over the summer, the SUNCAT team have loaded in the entirety of the British Library backlog, dating back from 2004. This library is now completely current in SUNCAT. The team is presently loading in the backlog of updates from Phase One libraries (the Universities of Cambridge and Warwick in the first instance). Other Phase One libraries will follow in due course, as their data is the oldest in the database. After that, Phase Two libraries will be asked for regular updates.

If you are a Contributing Library, and are wondering why you have not been asked for any updates, please do not think that your contribution has been forgotten! The process of loading updates requires considerable organisation, as updates have to be loaded in sequence with new libraries, as well as being converted and checked thoroughly. To make things run as smoothly as possible, the SUNCAT Bibliographic team will be in contact with the appropriate Contributing Libraries in due course, to arrange a mutually convenient timetable for depositing updates.

### Downloading MARC Records

Contributing Libraries will soon be able to download MARC records from SUNCAT via Z39.50. The facility has not been made available up to this point due to concerns about

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), particularly with regard to records originating from commercial sources. SUNCAT has been in negotiation with a number of these vendors and is currently working on a solution to this issue. The team have also been working concurrently with a number of Phase One libraries testing the functionality of downloading via Z39.50. It is anticipated that the IPR issues will be resolved and testing completed shortly enabling the delivery of this functionality early in 2007.

### Z39.50 Access to SUNCAT

Although we cannot currently offer downloading of MARC records it is now possible to connect to SUNCAT via Z39.50 to search for and download records in SUTRS and Dublin Core XML formats. This will enable users to search SUNCAT from the familiarity of their local library catalogue or from within Bibliographic Management Software interfaces, such as EndNote and Reference Manager. The Z39.50 target information is available at <http://www.suncat.ac.uk/support/z-target.shtml>

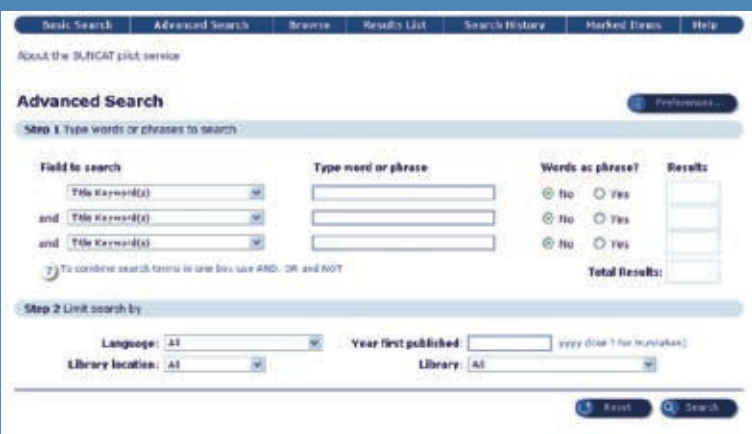
### Links to Library Websites

As mentioned earlier SUNCAT is continuing to add improvements to the existing service. It is now possible to click on links to Contributing Library websites from the holdings details within each bibliographic record. On clicking on the link a new browser window is opened leading to the homepage of the appropriate library. A survey carried out during Phase One of SUNCAT indicated that most Contributing Libraries considered this the preferred page to link to as it provided a gateway to the types of information users might be looking for including the Library's local OPAC, contact details, opening hours and access arrangements. If, however, you would prefer the link to lead to another page within your library website please contact [zena.mulligan@ed.ac.uk](mailto:zena.mulligan@ed.ac.uk)

### Automating Ingest of Metadata on Serials Subscriptions (AIMSS)

As reported in the last newsletter the AIMSS project is now complete and the final report is available at <http://www.suncat.ac.uk/news/docs/FinalReport.doc>

This proof of concept project involved the transmission of serials' holding information for the Universities of Glasgow and Leeds from Serials Solutions, a Public Access Management Service, to SUNCAT where the records existing for the universities were updated. ONIX for Serials (Serials Online Holdings) was the format used for transporting the data.



advanced search screen



## Endnote and Reference Manager

The team are currently investigating providing connection files and import filters to allow Bibliographic Management Reference software to interact with SUNCAT. Once set up the filters will allow users to import any journal references saved from searches in SUNCAT to services such as EndNote and Reference Manager. As we have now enabled Z39.50 access to SUNCAT users will also be able to search and download references from within these services using the connection files provided. More information on these files will be available shortly.

## Librarians' Interface

The Librarians' Interface, which will provide authenticated access to SUNCAT allowing Contributing Libraries to download MARC records and verify unique records they have submitted, is currently undergoing rigorous testing. The testing will ensure that the development provides a useful function for its users and involves both work from the SUNCAT team at EDINA, and Ex Libris, both in London and Israel. A review of the timescale for this development means that this service will now be released in Spring 2007.

## Notification of Changes

In the June issue it was stated that it was planned to have available in 2007, in the Librarians' Interface, a facility which would provide Contributing Libraries with customisable notification reports about any changes to preferred records on SUNCAT. At the last meeting of the SUNCAT Steering Committee in October it was decided to postpone the development of this facility to allow the limited resources to be used to improve various aspects of data quality. It is hoped to be able to proceed with this development in Phase Three which will commence in August 2007.

## SUNCAT Steering Committee

The last meeting of the Committee was held on Wednesday 25th October. The Committee acknowledged the considerable progress which had been made in creating a service which currently has data loaded from 61 libraries. There will be a successor to the Committee but the name, remit and membership has not yet been confirmed.

## SUNCAT Bibliographic Quality Advisory Group

The SUNCAT Bibliographic Quality Advisory Group has been in existence since the inception of the project, with the aim

of gathering together some of the heads of cataloguing and / or serials from our Contributing Libraries, to provide advice and guidance to the Bibliographic team on matters such as standards. The group meet twice yearly, and the last meeting was held in September 2006.

The membership of the group has altered considerably in the past year with the retirement of the original Chair, Alason Roberts from the University of Edinburgh and both John Nicklen of the National Library of Scotland and Tony Kidd of the University of Glasgow moving into different roles within their organisations. The SUNCAT team would like to thank these and the remaining BQAG members for all their support and input throughout the last three years.

The team would also like to welcome the new Chair, Elize Rowan, Head of Bibliographic Services for the University of Edinburgh and new members Janet Wharton (Head of Cataloguing, University of Nottingham), Rosemary Stenson (University of Glasgow), Caroline Lowrey (Team Leader, Serials, Cataloguing Services, National Library of Scotland) who join the existing members: Hugh Taylor (Head, Collection Development and Description, Cambridge University Library) and Sue Miles (Head of Catalogue Management, the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford).

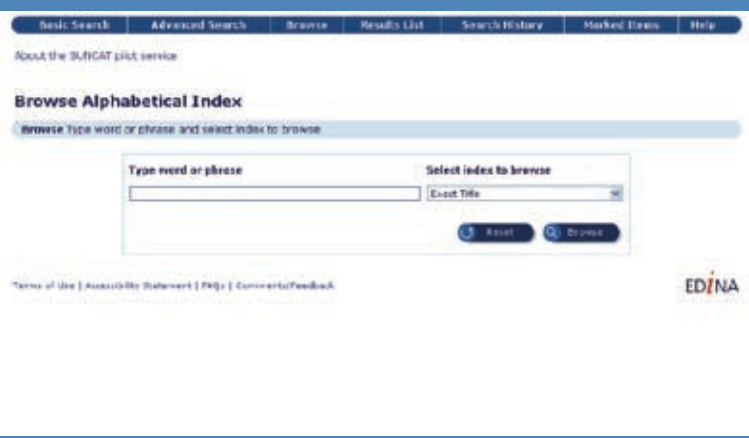
## Review for JISC of Core Resource Discovery Services

The Review of SUNCAT, COPAC, Zetoc and the Archives Hub was carried out by Clax Ltd. during the summer. The final advisory report was issued to the JISC in September and is to be considered at JISC sub-committee meetings in November.

## SUNCAT Workshops

To coincide with the launch of the full service EDINA carried out three half-day workshops in September 2006 to promote SUNCAT to library and information professionals in the UK research community. The major aims of the workshops were to raise awareness of the SUNCAT service and its benefits for librarians, information professionals and researchers in institutions across the UK. Key messages included

- SUNCAT as a location tool for serials held in the UK
- SUNCAT as a repository of high quality bibliographic records
- SUNCAT's scope, both geographic and title coverage
- SUNCAT's future in the developing information environment



browse alphabetical index screen



The workshops were targeted at library and information professionals as they represent a major user group for SUNCAT and secondly they are ideally placed to promote the service to their local user community and SUNCAT's other major user group, researchers.

The workshops were held in distributed locations across the UK:

- British Library, London
- University of Edinburgh Library
- Manchester Conference Centre

All three events were well attended with over 150 participants in total and a waiting list for the workshop at the British Library. Participants included a wide range of information professionals including serials librarians, ILL librarians, systems librarians, cataloguers, reference, enquiry and liaison librarians, library managers and assistants.

Aside from a short welcome and introductory speech there were four separate presentations from the SUNCAT team at each workshop. These covered the background and history of SUNCAT, the benefits of SUNCAT for different groups of users, the process of contributing to SUNCAT, bibliographic developments and finally a presentation on the future developments of SUNCAT, including how it might integrate with the wider information environment. A fifth presentation was also given by representatives from Contributing Libraries including information on why they had joined SUNCAT, a description of their experience of contributing, how they hoped to use SUNCAT and a list of future desiderables for the service. These presentations were given by

- Brenda Young, Bibliographic Development, British Library
- Elize Rowan, Head of Bibliographic Services, University of Edinburgh Library/Chair of SUNCAT Bibliographic Quality Advisory Group
- Stuart Hunt, Data Services Manager, University of Warwick Library

The presentations are all available on the News and Events section of the SUNCAT website at <http://www.sunecat.ac.uk/news/presentations.html>

#### Cataloguing & Index Group Conference

A paper was given by Natasha Aburrow-Jones (SUNCAT Project Officer) at the CIG conference, held at UEA in Norwich in September this year. The three-day conference had the theme of "Immaculate Catalogues", so it was obvious that SUNCAT was a perfect subject for such a theme!

The SUNCAT paper explored in detail the manipulation undergone by each library's data, to ensure that it is in a uniform format for load into the Aleph LMS, and spent some time discussing the sophisticated matching algorithm. Data quality was also highlighted; this fitted in well with other papers in the conference, which stressed the lack of formal cataloguing skills in LIS classes around the UK, and that, despite the falling number of trained cataloguers, there is an ever-increasing need for coherent catalogues. The result of this is that data quality suffers.

The SUNCAT paper was well-received and attendees did stress that they would certainly try SUNCAT as a result of the talk. Further details can be found on the UKOLN website: <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/CIG-2006/>

This includes the presentations given by the speakers. Speakers also had to prepare a paper on their presentation, which will be published in the CIG journal, "Catalogue & Index".

#### Promotional Activity

- September 2006 SUNCAT Workshops in London, Edinburgh, Manchester -- Presentations at <http://www.sunecat.ac.uk/news/presentations.html>
- September 2006 Cataloguing & Indexing Group Conference --Presentation at [http://www.sunecat.ac.uk/news/presentations/SUNCAT\\_CIG\\_Sept2006.ppt](http://www.sunecat.ac.uk/news/presentations/SUNCAT_CIG_Sept2006.ppt)
- October 2006 Aleph User Group Meeting – Hosted by SUNCAT at the University of Edinburgh
- November 2006 Online Information -- Stand

#### Forthcoming Articles

- Guy, F. "SUNCAT: a service for the United Kingdom based in Edinburgh" TACIT
- Aburrow-Jones, N. "SUNCAT: the creation, maintenance and challenges of a national Union Catalogue of Serials in the United Kingdom" Catalogue & Index
- Mulligan, Z. "SUNCAT: The Serials Union Catalogue for the UK Research Community" ALISS Quarterly