



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

New Libraries on SUNCAT

SUNCAT now contains 63 libraries, including two new libraries loaded since the last newsletter, Bolton University and the Royal College of Nursing. St. Andrews University will also be loaded shortly.

In February 2007 a decision was taken to temporarily freeze the addition of new libraries to SUNCAT. The main reason for this decision was to allow the team to address the issue of duplicate records which are becoming apparent on the catalogue. Deferring the addition of new libraries ensures that the duplication does not increase while allowing the team time to consider ways of improving the matching and deduplication process. Please see the section on deduplication below for further details.

SUNCAT will resume the addition of new libraries in Phase Three.

Updating SUNCAT

SUNCAT is concentrating time and team effort into maintaining the currency of the database. This means ensuring that all libraries are up-to-date with changes to their catalogues. Currently, we have updates for about half of our contributing libraries, and they are gradually being added to SUNCAT. The process is similar to the initial load, in that a data specification has to be written, based on the data itself and the answers to an updating questionnaire, concentrating on how each Contributing Library deals with deleted records. These new instructions have to be included in the processing, and then checked to ensure that they are working correctly before being loaded into SUNCAT.

Downloading CONSER Records

Over the next few months SUNCAT will make a subset of its records available for downloading in MARC21 format. These records will be from CONSER, the Library of Congress Cooperative ONLINE SERIALS programme. CONSER records are of very high bibliographic quality and will be of interest to libraries wanting to download records for newly purchased serials and also for those wanting to upgrade their existing serials records. We would encourage our Contributing Libraries to download these records as not only will they

enhance serials discovery at the local level they will also improve serials discovery on SUNCAT in the longer term as libraries subsequently supply update files containing these upgraded records.

The team are currently working on updating the CONSER records and once this is complete we will test the download facility with our Bibliographic Quality Advisory Group before releasing it to our Contributing Libraries

OpenURL Linking

It is now possible to create OpenURL links to SUNCAT, to lead your users directly from web services such as online reading lists, catalogues, table of contents services and bibliographic databases to details on the holdings and location of serials in the UK. Users finding an article of interest will then be able to link directly to the appropriate journal record on SUNCAT providing details on where it is held in the UK. This linking facilitates access, either in person or via document delivery, to articles not immediately available to your users online.

Information on setting up OpenURL links is available on the SUNCAT website at http://www.suncat.ac.uk/support/OpenURL_linking.html

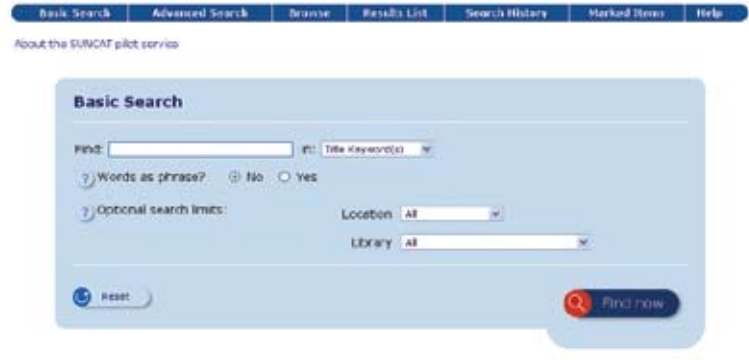
Bibliographic Software Tools

As promised in the last newsletter we have set up a connection file to enable users to import records from SUNCAT into EndNote. Users are now able to connect to SUNCAT via EndNote to search for and download references or they can search SUNCAT directly and save references into a file which can then be imported into EndNote. The connection file and further information are available on the SUNCAT website at http://www.suncat.ac.uk/support/EndNote_Filter.html

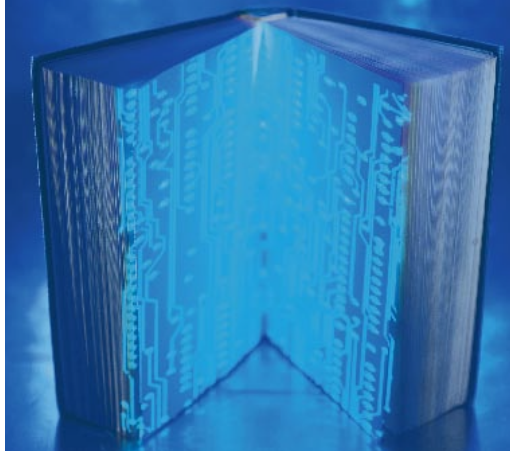
Deduplication

As part of its ongoing development SUNCAT is currently exploring ways to reduce the number of duplicate records displaying on the catalogue.

SUNCAT employs a matching algorithm developed by our project partner Ex Libris (please see <http://www.suncat.ac.uk/librarians/matching.html> for more details) to match together and deduplicate titles as they are added to the catalogue. Ideally there should be just one bibliographic record displaying for each title with all the appropriate



basic search screen



libraries' holdings attached. However as more libraries are added to SUNCAT more duplicate records for the same title are appearing. The primary reason for this is the varying quality of serials bibliographic records and differences in cataloguing practice across our Contributing Libraries and indeed across the UK as a whole.

In order to address this issue the SUNCAT team are investigating several avenues.

- Developing metrics to measure the current level of duplication so that any future improvements can be tracked
- Assessing users' experience of searching SUNCAT and their tolerance of duplicate records
- Exploring ways of presenting results to reduce the appearance and effects of duplication
- Exploring changes to the existing matching algorithm and related functionality with Ex Libris

In order to assess the level of duplication and users' experience of this we are currently carrying out a survey which is available at <https://www.survey.ed.ac.uk/suncat>

We would be grateful if our Contributing Libraries could take the time to complete this - it is very short and simple so should only take five minutes! Please also pass the survey link onto your colleagues as we are keen to gather as much feedback as possible.

A longer term plan to improve deduplication is to involve our Contributing Libraries. Using an alternative SUNCAT interface (the Librarians' Interface) which Ex Libris are currently developing we will supply each of our Contributing Libraries with a list of the serials they have supplied which do not match with any other records on SUNCAT. The Contributing Library will then be asked to verify if each title is indeed unique or alternatively to match it with a record from a list of potential candidates again supplied by SUNCAT. The Contributing Library will also be offered the opportunity to download one of these records if it is better quality than their existing record. However, we are keen to improve the automatic matching processes as much as possible before we embark on this more manual route.

Finally, deduplication should also improve as our Contributing Libraries download good quality records, e.g. CONSER records, from SUNCAT to replace any low quality records they have on their local catalogue. These upgraded records will be supplied to SUNCAT in subsequent updates from the Contributing Libraries and will match better than the original records so reducing duplication.

UK Research Reserve

The SUNCAT team recently met with Nicola Wright from the UK Research Reserve (UKRR) project. The UKRR is setting out to ensure that a minimum number of copies of low-use print journals, which libraries are looking to dispose of in the current climate of increasing journal prices and space constraints, are stored, so guaranteeing their preservation and ongoing access. Phase one of the project is a collaboration between the British Library and a small group of UK research libraries. More information about the UKRR is available at <http://www.curl.ac.uk/projects/CollaborativeStorage/Home.htm>

SUNCAT is well placed to assist the UKRR as it currently contains the journal holdings of all but one of the UKRR Phase one libraries and the remaining library, St Andrews, should be loaded into SUNCAT within the next month. The UKRR phase one libraries include:

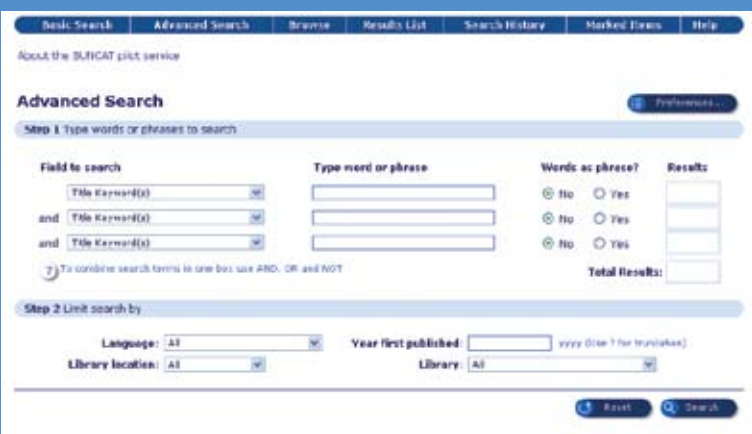
- Imperial College London
- University of Birmingham
- The British Library
- Cardiff University
- University of Liverpool
- University of St Andrews
- University of Southampton

The meeting discussed how SUNCAT might facilitate the participating libraries to both identify potential journals for deduplication while continuing to act as a location facility for researchers, which will be particularly important as holdings are reduced to fewer locations.

Collaboration with other Union Catalogues

Since January 2007 the SUNCAT team have been actively contacting other union catalogues with a view to finding areas of common interest, building relationships and looking at ways that SUNCAT could link into related services throughout the World. These catalogues include:

- Consortium of Icelandic Libraries
- COPAC
- GALILEO (union catalogue for academic and public section in the state of Georgia, USA)
- KVK - Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog (Germany, Austria and Switzerland union catalogue)
- LINDA (Finnish Union Catalogue)
- National Union Catalogue of Printed Materials and the National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections (based at the Library of Congress, USA)
- NCC (Netherlands Central Catalogue)



advanced search screen



- NUKAT (Polish Union Catalogue)
- SAMPER (Norwegian Union Catalogue)
- SCoRE (The National UK Catalogue of Printed Company Records)
- Swiss Gateway to Periodicals

To facilitate these discussions SUNCAT has set up a Union Catalogue Discussion list (suncat-union-catalogue-discussion@lists.ed.ac.uk). The process of setting up and encouraging people to join this list has led SUNCAT into discussion with OCLC PICA regarding a number of projects. Firstly, the Request Transfer Message via OpenURL, to take users from discovery to delivery which OCLC PICA has been investigating in relation to WorldCat, <http://www.worldcat.org/> This technology, using the proposed ISO Holdings Schema, enhances the existing usage of OpenURL by incorporating information about the user to connect to appropriate delivery services.

Secondly, the Work Cluster Service is a facility OCLC PICA has developed to reduce duplication. Similar items are clustered together, in a FRBR manner, with items at the entity level accessed from a “fork” menu, making it clear where titles are clustered. This clustering would have the effect of reducing duplication or at least the appearance of duplication. More information on these projects will be made available as work progresses.

Finally, contact with NUKAT, the Polish Union Catalogue, has led to an invitation for SUNCAT to present at a conference to celebrate the fifth anniversary of NUKAT, which will be held in Warsaw from 23-25 January 2008.

If you are interested in joining the SUNCAT Union Catalogue Discussion list please contact the SUNCAT team at suncat@staffmail.ed.ac.uk

SUNCAT Steering Committee

The SUNCAT Steering Committee, chaired by Professor Derek Law (University of Strathclyde) and with representation from SUNCAT Contributing Libraries has been responsible for overseeing SUNCAT from commencement in February 2003 as a project, becoming a pilot service (January 2005) to becoming a full service in August 2006. At the meeting of the Steering Committee in April 2007 it was declared that the work of the Steering Committee had come to end since SUNCAT had successfully progressed from a project to a service. EDINA would like to thank all members of the SUNCAT Steering Committee for their advice, support and encouragement over the years.

As an EDINA service, SUNCAT is overseen by the EDINA Board of Management but members of the SUNCAT Steering Committee felt, given SUNCAT’s key role in scholarly communication and that there is still a strong strand of development required, that it was appropriate to have another body to oversee the work of SUNCAT. Accordingly the JISC representatives prepared Terms of Reference (TOR) for a new Committee. This Committee is also to be entitled the SUNCAT Steering Committee. The TOR states:

Purpose and responsibilities

The Committee shall provide strategic guidance for the direction of the SUNCAT service. Its professional opinion shall carry significant/important weight with both the service funder and service provider. In particular its views and endorsement or otherwise will be required on matters proposed for submission to JISC. The Committee shall help identify, define and evaluate developmental improvements to the service.

The Committee shall advise on operational matters that may be referred to it. It will not however be responsible for operational accountability of the service provision by EDINA. It may nonetheless make recommendations to the EDINA Board of Management on operational matters as deemed appropriate. The EDINA Board of Management is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the SUNCAT service is operationally aligned with the JISC strategic objectives and service provision expectations.

The Committee shall consider and advise on the three yearly SUNCAT service rolling plan and annual operational plan, as well as any annual reports specific to the SUNCAT.

Membership

The Committee membership shall comprise The Chair, Secretary, and representatives of EDINA, JISC, BL, and the UK National Libraries, other major stakeholders and the user community plus others recognised in professional standing that are able to make significant contributions. Membership shall be for a period of up to two consecutive terms of three years duration each.

EDINA will be responsible for the administration of the new committee.

Bibliographic Quality Advisory Group Report

On the 2nd May, the SUNCAT team met with the Bibliographic Quality Advisory Group. This group is made up of the heads of serials, or cataloguing (or equivalent) from some of our



browse alphabetical index screen



Contributing Libraries. They have an advisory capacity to aid SUNCAT regarding bibliographic practices. The agenda for this meeting was very full, covering both practical and theoretical discussions. The main focus was the Librarians' Interface, which will help contributing libraries to identify records that have not matched with any other records in SUNCAT. The Librarians' Interface is envisaged as a useful tool, but the demonstration showed that there was some work yet to be done in the presentation of records. Other topics covered included the visit by the UKRR (UK Research Reserve) to SUNCAT, the downloading functionality of SUNCAT, and future developments, such as the Registration of Holdings (to help those libraries who are not able to export their records and send them to SUNCAT for processing). Duplication of records in the SUNCAT database was also discussed.

As ever, the discussions gave much food for thought, and were very useful.

New FTP Address for Contributing Libraries

When sending data to SUNCAT via ftp, all Contributing Libraries have been using their individual log-ins and passwords, sending to "nevis.ed.ac.uk". We have unfortunately had to change the FTP server, so all directories have been moved. Libraries should now use the address: [ftp.suncat.ac.uk](ftp://suncat.ac.uk). All log-ins and passwords remain the same.

This notification will also be sent to all Contributing Libraries via email.

Moving to Phase Three of SUNCAT

Phase 1 of SUNCAT commenced in February 2003. This Phase was concerned with processing data for a critical number of major research libraries and by the end of the Phase the database comprised data from 22 libraries, along with the CONSER file and the ISSN Register.

Phase 2 started in January 2005 and is due to finish in July 2007. In this Phase the number of Contributing Libraries increased to 63 and includes a number of specialist libraries with unique journal holdings.

Facilities for downloading records have been gradually introduced in this Phase and by the end of it staff in Contributing Libraries should be able to download records for local OPACs from the high quality CONSER database.

The detailed content for Phase 3 has to be endorsed by the

new SUNCAT Steering Committee which should meet in September. The anticipated work falls into six categories. They are:

- a) Maintaining the currency of the database
- b) Adding additional libraries
- c) Creating a means of manually adding holdings (Registration of Holdings)
- d) Improving facilities for downloading
- e) Exploring and implementing interoperability with other services relevant to scholarly communication
- f) Exploring and implementing, where appropriate, Web 2.0 technologies and developing workflows using ONIX for Serials.

Promotional Material

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

There are also plans to create online and print user scenarios to promote SUNCAT to both end-users and Inter-Library-Loan staff. More information about these will be made available shortly.

Promotional Activity

- January 2007 Research Information Network, Expert Seminar on Union Catalogues – Presentation + Workshop Lead
- April 2007 UK Serials Group Conference – Stand
- June 2007 Umbrella Conference - Stand

Articles

Burnhill, P., Guy, F. and Osborne, N. Scholarly Communication and National Union Catalogues: a Strategic Role for SUNCAT in the UK Information Environment. *New Review of Information Networking* 12(1):1-21. A preprint of this article is now available on the SUNCAT website at http://www.suncat.ac.uk/news/docs/NRIN_Burnhill_Guy_Osborne_May_Nov2006r.pdf