

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

Change to SUNCAT Results Display

We have made a change to the way results are displayed in SUNCAT. In addition to the serial title, author and year of publication information, a list of the libraries holding each title now displays on the results screen. This enhancement enables users to see at a glance which libraries hold a title, helping them to identify and filter records of interest more quickly. The full record display continues to contain more detailed location and holdings information.



OpenURL Linking

To aid SUNCAT users' journey from the discovery of relevant journals to the delivery of full text articles we have introduced a "Find a Copy" button to the full record display. The button leads users to their local OpenURL resolver and hence to options for full text access, depending on their entitlement, or to alternatives such as Inter-Library loan services at their local institution. Users searching SUNCAT within their institution's IP range should automatically be presented with the institution's own resolver button, e.g. SFX.

To benefit from this functionality librarians need to register their resolver with the OpenURL Router at <http://openurl.ac.uk/doc/librarians.html>

Find Journals in Facebook

We have created a SUNCAT search application on Facebook, which can be added to any user profile, <http://apps.facebook.com/suncat-search/>

Once the application has been added, it is possible to search for journals simply by entering a few keywords and hitting the search button. Results are returned within the

SUNCAT interface, allowing users to refine or create more sophisticated searches.



Pilot MARC Record Download Service

The pilot service, enabling our Contributing Libraries to download CONSER records in MARC format, has been running since December 2007. So far no major problems have been identified by the current users of the service so we hope to extend its coverage to include records from more SUNCAT Contributing Libraries over the coming months. Following feedback from our Bibliographic Quality Advisory Group we plan to run two parallel services, one providing access to the high quality CONSER records only and a second which will contain additional Libraries' records in addition to CONSER. The next set of records we will make available is the ISSN Register.

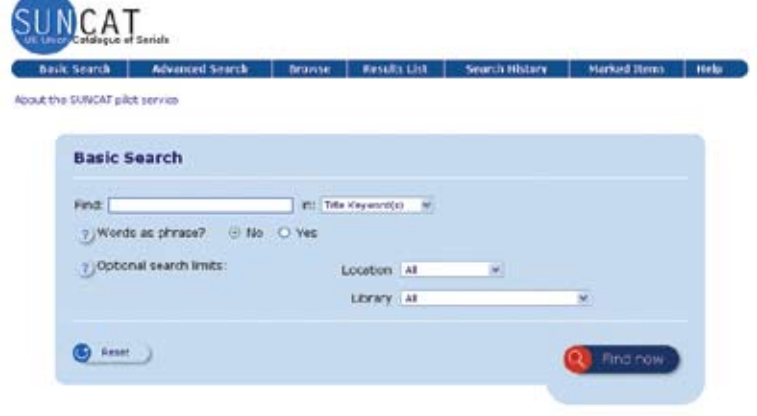
A reminder that this service is free to all our Contributing Libraries, with details of how to set up and configure the Z39.50 connection available at <http://www.suncat.ac.uk/support/z-target-auth.shtml>

Deduplication: Secondary Algorithm

In the December 2007 SUNCAT newsletter it was reported that the SUNCAT team had commissioned research into a secondary matching algorithm. The initial proof of concept project is now complete, and the outcomes include a technical report detailing how the new algorithm improved matching of the SUNCAT data, and a software package created to replicate the SUNCAT algorithm, improve the existing matching rules, and integrate a string-similarity element to the algorithm.

String-similarity rules developed at the Language Technology Group, University of Edinburgh (based on the Second-String package <http://secondstring.sourceforge.net>) were used to weight the points assigned for a match on the title and main entry fields. Together with the modifications to the existing matching rules, these enhancements markedly increased the number of records which matched together, but at the expense of some mismatches.

Matching is a balance between creating mismatches which could render records lost to users of SUNCAT, and



basic search screen



leaving duplicate records which makes the experience of searching SUNCAT more difficult. An early decision was made to avoid mismatches in the SUNCAT database, and to address the issue of duplication through enhancements to the user interface, manual de-duplication, improvements to the existing matching algorithm, and investigation of a secondary algorithm. In the light of this project's findings, the SUNCAT team will evaluate how to proceed with the problem of duplication, and the software package delivered by the project can serve as a basis for experimentation in developing matching within SUNCAT in the future.

SUNCAT Blog

We have set up a Blog to allow us to disseminate both formal and informal news about SUNCAT, including service enhancements, meetings attended and promotional activity. It also provides a means for us to keep users informed about new updates and libraries added to SUNCAT. We are continuing to maintain the Current News page on the website for formal news items. The blog is available at <http://suncatblog.blogspot.com/> and automatic feeds can be set up using FeedBurner.

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/SuncatBlog>



New Look to Website

As part of the redesign of the EDINA website, the SUNCAT site also has a new look. The structure of the site remains the same but a new updates page <http://www.suncat.ac.uk/description/currency.html> has been added. The page provides some details about the updating process and also includes the frequency with which each contributing library is updated and the date of its last update.

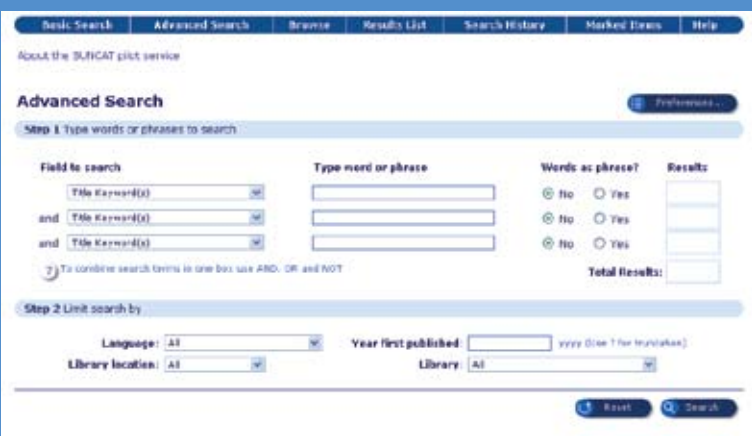
SUNCAT Currency

Since the last newsletter in December 2007, updating SUNCAT and maintaining its currency has been carrying on apace. It is interesting to note that at this time in 2007, there were only three libraries updating; now, there are 60 libraries in this situation, including the CONSER and ISSN databases. Over 40 of these libraries have sent more than one update in a regular, agreed pattern, and can thus be seen as updating on a regular basis.



Updating poses new and interesting challenges. Some of the things that we have noticed which differ from the initial load:

- Data can be variable between updates from the same Contributing Library. This may be a change in local practice of which SUNCAT is unaware; it may be an error. We clarify the point with the library, and adapt our conversion processes where necessary.
- Re-use of the local control number, which may mean supplying different metadata in an existing record (which may be problematic if the metadata is describing a different resource altogether). The way records are loaded into Aleph means that this may result in mismatched data.
- On a more positive note, Contributing Libraries are appreciative of the reports we send them when notifying them of their update load to SUNCAT. These reports tell the library of any records which are rejected after conversion and are not loaded, as they do not meet the SUNCAT entry standard (details of which can be found at <http://www.suncat.ac.uk/librarians/Suncatbibstandards2007.pdf>). As the entry standard is set deliberately low to allow as many records into the database as possible, a record that is rejected usually lacks basic information (e.g., it does not have a title, it does not have any holdings, it is not coded as a serial),



advanced search screen



and requires attention. We also inform the library of any records that may have two or more titles in the same bibliographic record – these are loaded, but matching occurs on the first title only. These records are corrected in the library's own time, and sent back as updates. This serves to improve both the library's catalogue and SUNCAT.

Overall, updating not only keeps SUNCAT current, but the reports generated act as a catalyst for the Contributing Libraries' database maintenance activities. The checking of updates takes up much time, but is necessary to pick up on any changes in the data, which the library may not be aware of. SUNCAT hopes to be able to report that all of its Contributing Libraries will be updating by the time of the next newsletter.

Quick Survey of Inter-Library Loan Librarians

Coinciding with a SUNCAT presentation, to the North West Libraries Interlending Partnership in Preston in May 2008, a short survey was conducted with the participants at the meeting.

The North West Libraries Interlending Partnership <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/NWLIinterlending/> provides Inter Library Loan support services to libraries in the north west of England. It has a total of 32 partners, including 20 Public Library Authorities; 11 Academic Libraries and one Specialist Library.

- 33% of the respondents had previously used SUNCAT as part of their (Inter-Library Loan) ILL workflow.
- The remaining 67% all indicated that they would now consider using SUNCAT as part of their ILL workflow.
- 76% of the respondents indicated that they would like more public libraries to be added to SUNCAT
- 50% of respondents indicated that they would like more Higher Education and Specialist libraries to be added to SUNCAT

Respondents were also asked to rate the usefulness of five new or potential SUNCAT developments.

- The recent development, **Listing the holding libraries on the result screen**, was the most popular development with 100% of the respondents rating this at the top end of the scale.
- The second most popular development was, **Linking from SUNCAT holdings to the equivalent record on Contributing Libraries' local catalogues**, with 86% of the respondents rating this at the top end of the scale.

- The next most popular development was, **Linking from SUNCAT to Table of Content (TOC) services**, e.g. Zetoc with 67% of respondents rating this at the top end of the scale.
- Following this, **Integrated presentation and access to SUNCAT, COPAC, Zetoc etc.** had 57% of the respondents rating this at the top end of the scale.
- The least popular development was the, **Integration with ILL request mechanisms**, which only 43% of the respondents rated at the high end of the scale.

These results were very encouraging for SUNCAT, demonstrating that we are on track with our new and planned developments, but should concentrate on developing deep links to local catalogues and to setting up links to TOC services. The results also highlight that it would be helpful to include more public libraries on the catalogue and to promote the service further to the ILL community.

Bibliographic Quality Advisory Group Meeting

The SUNCAT Bibliographic Quality Advisory Group (BQAG) met in late May, 2008. This group is made up of representatives of serials cataloguing from some of our Contributing Libraries, and meets on a semi-annual basis.

Topics under discussion included z39.50 and downloading, and updating progress (these are covered elsewhere in the newsletter). An energetic discussion on RDA provided much food for thought. RDA (Resource Discovery and Access) is the new set of cataloguing rules currently being designed to replace AACR2 (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules). RDA is based on the FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) and FRAD (Functional Requirements for Authority Data) models, a new approach to the standards used in AACR2. More information can be found at:

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/jsc/>

The implications of RDA add yet another layer of complexity, as SUNCAT will have to incorporate records catalogued to two different standards, RDA and AACR2, as well as those which are not catalogued to these rules. Looking at the wider picture, the MARC format will have to be expanded, and new displays created to make the most of the FRBR approach. RDA raises many questions, but there is no doubt that a change is needed to existing cataloguing rules to take into account the fluid nature of objects that are being described in many catalogues at the moment. How serials will be catalogued in RDA is not yet an established workflow, which also raises questions for SUNCAT.



browse alphabetical index screen



There was much to take away from the BQAG meeting; SUNCAT will have to adapt, but it is a case of waiting until the new cataloguing rules are finalised, published and implemented by Contributing Libraries before action can be taken.

Discovery to Delivery (D2D) Project

Developing the UK Infrastructure for Discovery to Delivery is a JISC funded, one year project, jointly being carried out by the two national data centres, Mimas (University of Manchester) and EDINA (University of Edinburgh). The project is due to be completed by 31st July 2009. The key strands in the project are:

- to create relationships between services (including Copac, Zetoc and SUNCAT) hosted by the data centres thereby providing users with more coherent access to the services
- to provide pathways from discovery via the services to access and document delivery
- to provide personalisation facilities for the services

The project has been divided into four work areas. These are:

- a) Scholarly Communications web site and scoping of a portal. This work area will be led by EDINA staff.
- b) Personalisation and institutional profiling. This work area will utilise, as far as possible, outcomes from other JISC projects specifically concerned with personalisation. This work area will be led by Mimas staff.
- c) Linking through Tables of Contents. This work area will be led by Mimas staff.
- d) Final Access and delivery using registries and brokers. The work in this area will be designed to provide users with onward pathways to full text services as well as interlending facilities. This work area will be led by EDINA staff.

The joint project managers are Joy Palmer (Mimas) and Fred Guy (EDINA).

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

Meetings and Events

- EDINA/SUNCAT stand at UKSG (April 2008)
- SUNCAT presentation to North West Libraries Interlending Partnership (May 2008)
- SUNCAT Bibliographic Quality Advisory Group Meeting (May 2008)
- SUNCAT/SALSER stand at CILIPS Branch & Group Day (June 2008)