

Welcome to the tenth SUNCAT newsletter. EDINA would like to wish all our users and contributing libraries:

***A Happy Festive Season
and All the Best for 2013!***

Libraries in SUNCAT

SUNCAT currently holds over seven million serial records, through the contribution of 89 libraries plus the CONSER database, the ISSN Register, and the Directory of Open-Access Journals. These 89 libraries consist of three national libraries, 57 higher education libraries and 29 specialist and research libraries, covering a wide geographical and subject area within the UK and Ireland.

New libraries 2012

Since the last newsletter, seven new libraries have been added to SUNCAT.

The latest university libraries to become contributing members are:

De Montfort University in Leicester

<http://www.library.dmu.ac.uk/>

It is a teaching and research institution, with four faculties offering 400 diverse undergraduate and postgraduate subjects. The Library holds just under 66,000 serial records, for both print and electronic titles.

Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen

<http://www.rgu.ac.uk/current-students/library/library-home>

The University offers a wide range of courses in ten different subject areas, including: Architecture, Construction and Surveying; Information, Communication, and Media; and Laboratory, and Biomedical and Sports Sciences. Robert Gordon University Library has supplied SUNCAT with 14,500 serials records.

Strathclyde University in Glasgow

<http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/>

The University Library has contributed over 48,000 serial records, just over 35,000 of which are for electronic journals. These records include titles from the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's collection which the Library also houses.

Three art libraries have been added:

Courtauld Institute of Art

<http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/booklibrary/>

The Institute is an international centre for the study of the history of art and conservation, as well as home to one of the

finest small art museums in the world. Its Book Library provides access to a significant art historical collection and is one of the major international research collections of art historical books, periodicals and exhibition catalogues in the country. Just over 1,000 serial records, for both print and electronic titles, have been loaded into SUNCAT.

Scottish National Gallery Research Library

<http://www.nationalgalleries.org/research/scottish-national-gallery-research-library>

The Library reflects the Scottish National Gallery's fine art collection, including Scottish and international art from about 1300-1900. Just over 60 serials records have been loaded.

Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art

<http://www.nationalgalleries.org/research/scottish-national-gallery-of-modern-art-library/>

The Reference Library collection reflects the Modern One and Modern Two's own art collection. This Library's great strengths are Dada and Surrealism, early twentieth century artists and contemporary Scottish art. Over 100 records have been loaded to SUNCAT with more to follow.

This brings the total number of art libraries in SUNCAT to five, with more to be added. In addition, the records for Edinburgh College of Art are included in those of Edinburgh University and those of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design are included in Dundee University.

One specialist library has recently joined:

The Library of the Society of Friends

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/about-collections>

The Library holds collections relating to Quakers and their activities, including peace, anti-slavery and relief work. Over 200 periodical titles are regularly received. They range from academic titles such as *Quaker Studies* and *The Journal of the Friends Historical Society*, to special interests such as *Towards Wholeness* (Friends Fellowship of Healing) to the newsletters and journals of other Yearly Meetings. There are complete runs of many titles, plus older titles that no longer exist.

Future libraries

One way to keep in touch with news of new libraries (and existing ones) is by reading the SUNCAT Blog. <http://suncatblog.blogspot.co.uk/>

More libraries are expected to be added in the coming months, including City University London.

Change of name

You may be wondering what has happened to the records from the National Maritime Museum. They are still there but under their rebranded name of **Royal Museums Greenwich Caird Library**.

Becoming a SUNCAT contributing library

Although to become a member of SUNCAT a library's serial records need to meet a certain standard in order to match in with existing records (unless of course they are a unique title), please remember that serial records do not need to be perfect. One advantage of being a contributing library is that you can download records to upgrade your own, which then will feed into SUNCAT by way of regular update files. If you are interested in becoming a contributing member of SUNCAT, please contact EDINA. Help us achieve eight million records!

Updating

From August 2011 to July 2012, SUNCAT processed 658 updates, an average of 55 a month. In the first three months of the current academic year, the average per month has risen to 58 and we expect that to increase. Almost all libraries send their updates on a regular basis. Part of the benefits and expectations of being a member of SUNCAT is that updates will be provided on a regular basis because the currency of SUNCAT is dependent on libraries sending regular update files. A big thank you to all our contributing libraries for helping us keep SUNCAT up to date.

Redevelopment of SUNCAT Platform

EDINA has embarked on a programme to redevelop the existing SUNCAT search platform. The impetus for this redevelopment emerged from a desire to not only provide enhanced functionality but also to be able to be more responsive to user feedback regarding suggested improvements.

Work commenced on the first phase of this development in spring 2012 as EDINA started to design and implement an entirely new user interface for the SUNCAT service.

In this initial development phase SUNCAT will continue to use Ex Libris' Aleph software to load and de-duplicate contributing libraries' serials records. The web interface, however, will be developed in-house, leveraging the open source enterprise search platform **Solr** (<http://lucene.apache.org/solr/>) to facilitate highly efficient searching across the millions of SUNCAT records.

EDINA considered a number of options to facilitate record searching, but Solr proved to be the best solution for dealing with the complex issues around searching and displaying records grouped into matched sets, a central component of the SUNCAT service. Moving to this open source platform should allow EDINA to have greater control and flexibility over the functionality and presentation of SUNCAT.

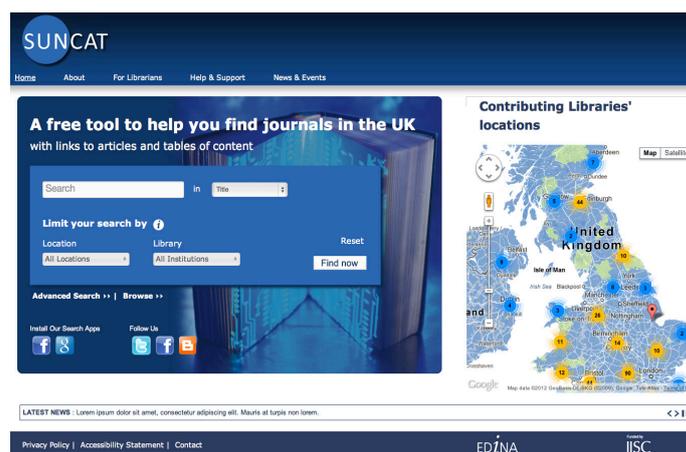
One key area of improvement, which will be available from the outset, is the ability to limit search results to holdings from multiple libraries and locations. These limits will include all the individual locations of each of our contributing libraries, rather than just locations at an institutional level as with the current

service. Another benefit will be that users will be able to select multiple locations and/or institutions by which to limit their search, so giving them great flexibility. The limits will now also ensure that users only see the holdings from locations or institutions they are interested in, as any extraneous holdings will no longer be displayed. These improvements mean that in the future EDINA will be able to provide customised views onto the service, configurable at both the individual user level, and also at a higher geographic, subject specialist or consortia level.

The improvements to the geographic limits are particularly important for the **mobile application** that is also currently in development. EDINA conducted some early user testing with a small group of volunteers earlier in the year and it is hoped that a beta version will be made more widely available early in 2013.

Other key areas of new functionality will follow throughout the next year. EDINA have identified a wish list of features based on user feedback, and also on a survey of some of the best functionality available in commercial search engines, library and union catalogues in the UK, Europe and beyond.

The **feedback** and **survey** also informed the design brief for the redeveloped service. Having considered a number of designs, EDINA narrowed the selection down to a few favoured options before consulting with SUNCAT contributing libraries to arrive at a final design.



New Design for SUNCAT Interface

It is hoped that a beta version of the new platform will be available in spring 2013, when we will be asking our users to provide feedback on progress.

SUNCAT and DiscoverEDINA

DiscoverEDINA was a JISC-funded project that ran from December 2011 to October 2012, which had the dual aims of “**resource metadata enrichment and aggregation**”, and “**enhancements to existing aggregations**”. There were three EDINA areas which were covered: **Geo-tagging**, **JISC Mediahub**, and **SUNCAT**. The SUNCAT strand was to concentrate on opening up metadata already extant in the SUNCAT database, and offer it in a variety of formats, including RDF (Resource Description Framework) triples allowing for linked data functionality.

There were two aspects to the DiscoverEDINA SUNCAT strand: licencing the reuse of data from SUNCAT Contributing Libraries; and getting that data out in different formats. Both aspects have raised issues, making neither as straightforward to imple-

ment as had been hoped for.

Asking SUNCAT Contributing Libraries if we could re-use the data that they send to SUNCAT was the first task. With the help of the University lawyers, a licence was drawn up which would give us permission to open up library data. This was sent to those libraries who expressed an interest in the project.

We currently have six libraries who have signed the licence, five of whom required amendments to the original licence. As with drawing up SUNCAT data specifications (to put library data into a form suitable for loading into the database), it quickly became clear that each library would allow different sets of their data to be made open.

In essence, most libraries would allow own-created data to be made open – but each library had a different way of identifying these records, so appendices for each licence had to be created to reflect these differences. One library allowed use of all its data, as it was all created in-house. One library restricted the formats that its data could be released in. One library did not want a specific vendor of bibliographic records to be included in their output. One library would allow only specific fields from all of their records to be made open. As can be seen, these were challenging issues, but were resolved successfully.

The other aspect was involved with extracting the data from SUNCAT, setting up a SPARQL (SPARQL Protocol and RDF Query Language) endpoint for the linked data (RDF triples format) and putting all the data into an SRU-enabled database, ready for querying. At the time of writing, the data is not quite ready to be released.

Many thanks to those SUNCAT Contributing Libraries who said that we could re-use some or all of their data for this project. They are (in no particular order): the **British Library**, the **National Library of Scotland**, the **University of Bristol Library**, the **University of Nottingham Library**, the **University of Glasgow Library**, and the library of the **Society of Antiquaries of London**.

Further details can be found on the DiscoverEDINA blog: <http://discoveredina.blogs.edina.ac.uk/>

SUNCAT and RDA

The SUNCAT bibliographic team are starting to look at the impact of **Resource, Description and Access (RDA)**. The British Library have indicated that they will implement RDA no earlier than 1st January 2013, with other libraries following suit. Some RDA records are already in SUNCAT, making it more of a hybrid catalogue than ever, with several cataloguing standards being used.

RDA is the successor to the AACR2 cataloguing rules, based on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) model. One of RDA's key features is that it is a flexible and extensible framework for the description of resources.

As most of the SUNCAT Contributing Libraries (and as SUNCAT itself does) will be using the MARC format for the foreseeable future, we need to look at what changes to MARC will follow on from the adoption of RDA. This will result in new fields and subfields for indexing and display.

In order to help us, SUNCAT will soon be distributing a questionnaire to our Contributing Libraries, asking if they will be

adopting RDA, and, if so, when and how they will be doing this. We would be very grateful if our Contributing Libraries would complete this questionnaire, to ensure that we don't omit any vital fields.

Impact and Satisfaction Survey

The last SUNCAT survey was conducted at the end of 2011, leading into early 2012. The feedback gathered through the survey has helped to inform requirements for the current redevelopment of the service. The responses were largely very positive and encouraging. Eighty-four percent of the respondents indicated that they would recommend SUNCAT to others, citing its speed and ease of use, the clear holdings information and display, and the comprehensive coverage of serials data in one source. Eighty-two percent reported that their work would take longer without SUNCAT.

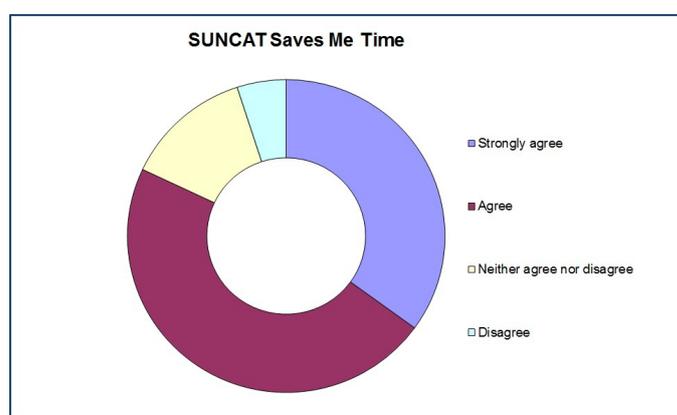


Chart of Survey Responses 2011-12

"You can reset searches. The website is very clear and it is easy to work out which library has paper copies and which electronic. You don't have to check lots of different records. Plus you are increasing the number of libraries covered. I use it several times a day and don't know what I would do without it. Thank you."

"It's easy to use, has a broad scope of materials held, and is very simple to use. I recommend it to students as well as library staff."

We are currently conducting a new survey with some slightly revised questions to find out the reasons why people use SUNCAT and how it might be improved. We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the survey as we value any responses we receive so that we can continue to evaluate and develop SUNCAT to meet our users' needs and expectations.

The survey is available until January 2013 from the SUNCAT service and at

<https://www.survey.ed.ac.uk/suncat2012-13/>

The SUNCAT Service for the UKRR

EDINA has been providing the UK Research Reserve (UKRR) (<http://www.ukrr.ac.uk>) with a service to facilitate the identification of the printed serial holdings of the 29 UKRR member libraries since 2010. The information provided on holdings informs the decisions about freeing up shelf space in member libraries. This customised service involves checking SUNCAT for the 26 members who are also SUNCAT Contributing Libraries and the online catalogues of the three other libraries and means that staff in member libraries do not have to carry out the checking manually, thereby saving a considerable amount of staff time. In the current calendar year, lists submitted on 55 occasions by 24 of the member libraries have been processed.

Related EDINA Services

The Keepers Registry

The Keepers Registry Beta service (<http://thekeepers.org>) has been operational since October 2011, having taken over from the PEPRS Beta service which was launched in February 2011. The beta service was a major outcome from the PEPRS project, funded by JISC in two phases (August 2008 – July 2010 and August 2010 – July 2012 with an unfunded extension to September 2012). EDINA's partner in PEPRS has been the ISSN International Centre which has made available the ISSN Register (which contains metadata for all journals which have been assigned an ISSN) for use within the service. The ISSN register is used to enhance the bibliographical metadata of the records supplied by The Keepers.

The service provides information on which e-journals are in an archiving programme operated by at least one of the participating organisations ("keepers"). There are currently seven participating organisations: British Library, CLOCKSS, e-Depot at Koninklijke Bibliotheek (Netherlands), General LOCKSS Network, HathiTrust, National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Portico. Each of these organisations makes available metadata about the e-journals they are archiving, including information on the extent (volume and issue when available). All this metadata is aggregated and users can see at a glance the particular situation applying to a title or series of titles. One very useful development that is currently undergoing testing allows library staff to upload a file with e-journal information including ISSNs, and a report on the archiving position for all the e-journals will be returned.

Meetings and Events

EDINA/SUNCAT stand at UKSG Conference, Bournemouth
8 - 10 April 2013.

<http://www.uksg.org/event/conference13>

EDINA/SUNCAT workshops

to be arranged spring/summer 2013.

Training and 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

In addition to guides, FAQs and information on how to use both the web search interface and the Z39.50 connections, there are also two short videos available on the SUNCAT website (<http://www.suncat.ac.uk/support/>) and on EDINA's YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/EDINADatacentre>). The first offers a brief introduction to the coverage and functionality of the service, and the second is a demonstration of SUNCAT, highlighting how to view Tables of Contents and access full-text articles.

Integrate SUNCAT into your Library Website and Services

We have created a quick guide for library/information professionals on integrating SUNCAT into your services and website, available at http://www.suncat.ac.uk/docs/integrate_suncat.pdf

The guide highlights SUNCAT applications, in addition to the benefits of adding SUNCAT to your:

- **Link resolver:** enabling your users to find out where they can find an article if it is not available to them electronically.
- **Federated or cross search service:** enabling your users to discover journals alongside the other resources you have selected.
- **Library catalogue:** enabling your users to search simultaneously the holdings of over 80 libraries alongside your local holdings.
- **Website:** embedding links or information about SUNCAT or the Google search app into pages related to journals, articles, databases, catalogues, and inter-library loans.

Help and Further Information

Have you been following our Blog (<http://www.suncatblog.blogspot.com>) to find out about quirky titles held in SUNCAT? Titles have been extracted to celebrate sporting occasions – Wimbledon, British Open Golf, the Olympics (a different sport each day), the start of the football season etc and to illustrate traditional events such as Halloween. Please feel free to tweet about any titles you find amusing or just plain weird! If you have any topics you would like covered for our weird and wonderful title selection, please send us your suggestions.

You can also follow our news via twitter (<http://twitter.com/suncatteam>) and for more information about SUNCAT please visit our website at <http://www.suncat.ac.uk> or contact the EDINA helpdesk at edina@ed.ac.uk.