Union catalogues for the UK: what do we want and how might we achieve it.

Key issues from a SUNCAT perspective.

Fred Guy
SUNCAT Project Manager
EDINA
Growth in Contributing Libraries

- Feb. 2003
- Dec. 2004
- Dec. 2005
- Dec. 2006

0 - 60
Types of Library

- Higher Education
- National
- Museums, Galleries, Gardens
- Learned societies and professional bodies
- Research Councils and institutes
- Public libraries
- Other
Key issues

• Fulfilling a key role in scholarly communication

• Data Quality

• Visibility

• Establishing links to access services
Scholarly Communication
(JISC/RSLP establishes SUNCAT as UK serials union catalogue)

1. Locate & discover serials held in UK other than in local OPAC
2. Upgrade OPACs with good bib. records
3. Metadata on electronic access subscriptions/deals
   NISO/Onix/DLF(ERMI)

UK research libraries
(national, university & specialist)

serial

ISSN Register

DOAJ

CONSER

OPACs

SUNCAT
4m

serials management systems

licensed access to article

Reader
(article/serial)

'article'

'locate'

'discover'

Publisher
article ➔ serial ➔ issue

Licence

SUNCAT
UK Union Catalogue of Serials

EDINA®

RIN Expert Seminar January 2007
Data quality

“A particular problem when considering the bringing together of serials records into a union catalogue is their variable quality. In many libraries, there has until recently been no tradition of creating or obtaining quality serials records, perhaps because these records were not as easily obtainable as for monographs but also because a simple finding list for serials was probably sufficient, given reliance on the services of the BLDSC”.

“Testing of serials union catalogues revealed not so much differences between physical and virtual architectures, as the dubious quality of much of the underlying data from local catalogues, including both the bibliographic record and the volume/year holdings information”.

Feasibility study for a National Union Catalogue.
Final Report 25th April 2001
Data quality

- **COVERAGE**
  - Number of libraries
  - Location of libraries
  - Type of libraries
  - Open Access Journals
  - Other union catalogues

- **DUPlication**

- **Currency** – present
  - Updates submitted regularly

- **Currency** – future?
  - SFX/OpenURL to local records
  - Onix for Serials from PAMS
  - Harvesting from OPACs
USERS’ REQUIREMENTS

For researchers, librarians and other professionals involved with serials ...

“Typically, library services are only seen by the audience which makes its way into the library Web presence and finds what they are looking for. “The resources are not visible to the many other people who may find them valuable”.

Lorcan Dempsey. The (Digital) Library Environment: Ten Years after.

http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue46/dempsey/intro.html
Visibility

- Site Maps for Search engines
- RSS feeds
PRESENT
User initiated search

HTTP

SUNCAT

FUTURE

JISC Information Environment
(OpenURL, RSS; E-mail alerts; MyPortal; SAKAI; uPortal; Microsoft Research Pane etc, etc.)

SUNCAT
Links to Access Services

**SEARCH & DISCOVER**
- Search (by series of keys)
- Locate holdings libraries
- Identify specific holdings

**REQUEST & DELIVER**
- Full Text
- Document Delivery

SUNCAT
- E-TOC
- ILL