Union Catalogues – some questions and some actions that might be undertaken.
**Definition**

- NUC – Can include diverse resources, monographs, serials, grey lit. etc. I prefer for now to try and treat monographs and serials as the focus – whilst recognising that there are a range of resources and users will want (images etc) it all but to get the holdings of library serials and monographs together is a manageable focus.

- A NUC might be a single db holding records of all monographs and serials (and more) in the UK (HE and research institutes, public library?)

- It can be a virtual union catalogue with distributed dbs.

- I think we should at least build on COPAC and SUNCAT – can they work together to provide a union catalogue of sorts?

- Could we register all holdings in a registry and are COPAC and SUNCAT particular services that are built on top of that (along with other services e.g. L&T portal)?
Technological changes since UKNUC and the conception of COPAC and SUNCAT

- The dominance of search engines
- Web 2.0
- Development of SOA
- Emergence of registries to drive other services
- Federating searching using Z39.50 isn’t easy, results are inconsistent
- Experience of harvest with OAI PMH – is it rich enough?
Collections – digital repositories, digitized books, e-books, OPACs, Dbs.

Use = discovery to delivery

Collection management and curation

Unpick local and national
A **rapid architectural review**, building on the report from Clax Ltd.

It should consider how to achieve discovery to delivery in a lightweight and flexible way.

- The role of registries.
- COPAC and SUNCAT (Zetoc etc.) interfaces to other services and services they might use. (resilience and trust – look at policies)
- How to provide a unified experience across SUNCAT, COPAC, or beyond.
- Move away from Z and look at SRU or Open Search.
- How to deliver full content.
- Taking the services to the web and local applications.

Map the functions of services to use cases/ business processes. What are the gaps?

Cost and specify the option Clax put forward of providing the services via a dedicated Google service using Google Appliance.
There is limited funding across partners – BL, JISC, CURL etc. Funders need to be reassured that they are investing soundly.

Each partner has a slightly different business interest.

Previously the UKNUC report said there was no need for a union catalogue of monographs, has this changed?

Can’t WorldCat do it all?
There is a case for making library provision more useful and relevant – e.g. taking the library to the user and exposing data to other services that are heavily used.

A **business case** needs made to improve and ‘join-up’ services like SUNCAT, COPAC, Zetoc. [or a NUC]

This must be made in terms of use cases and the broad landscape of services.
Technology is ok but organisational issues are the barrier.

Business models get in the way.

We tried with Join-up and it was difficult.

Lack of understanding on how to engage with commercial suppliers.

Stakeholders need to work together towards the same goal.
We need

- A vision and set of objectives for serial and monograph catalogue and provision – it has to be realistic and it has to support full discovery to delivery.

- It must be underpinned by:
  - use cases.
  - a collections strategy.
  - a technical architecture.
  - a business case.
Do people agree that we have to articulate how the different services already provided work together or should work together? Or is this already available? Could an architectural review do this?

Do we have a business case? If not how do we develop this?

A collections strategy?

Use cases?

Can we get to work on creating a vision and objectives?
To provide seamless and cost effective discovery to delivery [do we need collection mgt?] for monographs and serials across the UK Higher Education sector [do we go beyond?] to support education and research.

According to the following principles:

- Ease of access
- Comprehensiveness [need to develop a collection policy to define this]
- Quality [how do we define quality – what is ‘good enough’?]
- Open standards and flexible integration to support any time anywhere.
- Building on existing infrastructure and services
- Working in partnership
- Taking advantage of new technologies and opportunities e.g. text mining