New libraries and features for SUNCAT

Summer 2016 has seen some significant developments to the SUNCAT service and its evolution as the UK national union catalogue of serials and Jisc-supported library support service.

A recent release of the interface introduced two new features: My SUNCAT, and a serials holdings comparison service.

Personalising the user experience
My SUNCAT allows users to sign in to the service and store searches to rerun against future updates, save records and organise them into lists, and create custom groups of libraries and locations to use in searches.

Comparing your holdings
We are also pleased to announce that the holdings comparison service that SUNCAT offers to the UKRR (UK Research Reserve) has been extended to enable libraries to run their own serials holdings comparisons against the data held in SUNCAT. The free tool allows libraries to compare holdings for serials across 100+ libraries. Librarians can discover which serials are rare or unique, which are widely held and which are marked for UKRR retention. Analysis can be made at the national level or the local level by selecting particular libraries to include in the comparison.

The results can help libraries make decisions about:
• Keeping older print serials or moving them into storage
• Deselecting lower use print serials if commonly held
• Collaborating with other libraries to ensure sustainable access to at least one copy of a serial
• Cancelling or renewing current subscriptions depending on alternative access locally or via Inter Library Loan.

To find out more about using the serials holdings comparison service, please see: http://www.suncat.ac.uk/librarians/holdings-comparison-service.html

New Contributors
It has also been a busy period recently, in completing the process of adding several new libraries’ holdings to SUNCAT.

In total, six new contributors have now joined the many other academic, national and specialist libraries submitting serial records to the SUNCAT UK national union catalogue.

Their addition brings the total number of libraries in SUNCAT to 108, plus the CONSER database, ISSN register and Directory of Open Access Journals.

A new feature for each addition is an introductory summary from the contributing librarian. Hugh Cahill, Senior Librarian at Lambeth Palace Library emphasised in his introduction one of the principal benefits of inclusion: “By joining SUNCAT it is hoped that that the diverse periodical collections at Lambeth Palace Library will become better known and better used.”

His full summary can be read on the SUNCAT blog along with those from the other five new contributors: The Scottish Poetry Library, Royal Agricultural University, Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts), Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) and Truro & Penwith College.

Weekly summaries are also provided on the blog of the around 60 updates a month received from contributing libraries, which vary immensely in size from as many as 150,000 records down to as few as 20.

Further information and news about the service is available from the SUNCAT website.

Comments and other feedback are welcome via links at suncat.ac.uk.
KeepSafe Europe to address ‘continuing access’ concerns

KeepSafe Europe is addressing the challenge of how to secure and improve assured continuing access to web-published scholarly literature at the national level and beyond. Initiated in August 2016, EDINA and the LOCKSS Program at Stanford University are undertaking a collaborative project to provide support, coordination and alignment to HE consortia across Europe that are establishing e-journal continuing access initiatives.

Between August 2014 and July 2016, Jisc invested in the SafeNet project to define architecture for national infrastructure that would provide UK HE institutions with assured continuing access. During the SafeNet project, EDINA was approached by groups in other European countries also exploring national solutions. The KeepSafe project builds upon this interest, supporting national initiatives while providing a framework in which international knowledge sharing and collaboration can take place.

An invitation-only workshop was held at the University of Edinburgh on 25 - 26 July. The first day provided an opportunity for European colleagues to understand how the outputs and ‘lessons learnt’ from the SafeNet project could be applied in their respective countries. ‘Planning for Europe’, on the second day, explored the prospects of shared activity. Participants represented: University of Liege (Belgium), DTU Library/DEFF (Denmark), NatHosting Project (Germany), CARE/CRUI (Italy), Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania), Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (Slovakia), Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries (Switzerland), British Library, Research Libraries UK, and Jisc (UK).

As an output of the workshop, the group produced a shared statement making an initial agreement to: “collaborate and share information on continuing access activities within our own countries and investigate the implementation of sustainable cost-saving infrastructure, with initial focus on subscribed and bought digital content.”

Addressing continuing access is a shared concern across Europe. If you would like to join this community, please contact us at edina@ed.ac.uk.

Keepers Extra Statement

EDINA and the ISSN International Centre are pleased to announce the publication of Working Together to Ensure the Future of the Digital Scholarly Record, a statement that outlines the actions now required to tackle the evolving challenges of preserving and ensuring the long-term accessibility of digital scholarship.

Working Together to Ensure the Future of the Digital Scholarly Record addresses publishers, research libraries and national libraries, and sets out a series of recommended activities that they can undertake to support archiving and preservation initiatives. It represents the consensus of the preservation specialists, archivists, librarians and technologists who participated in an invited workshop held as part of the Keepers Extra project in Paris on the 6th and 7th of June 2016.

The Keepers Extra project (Aug 14 - Jul 16) was a Jisc investment designed to support and enhance community activity around the Keepers Registry, a Jisc service at EDINA. The Keepers Registry provides the freely available means to discover which e-journals are being archived by participating ‘Keeper’ archiving agencies, and thereby helps to highlight those e-journals for which no arrangement is on record.

The Keepers network, the community of practitioners who contribute to the registry and are committed to acting as the stewards of digital content, will work to support and encourage the actions identified in this statement.

Together, we invite others to support this call to action. If you or your organisation wishes to endorse this statement please write to edina@ed.ac.uk.

• View the statement at: http://thekeepers.blogs.edina.ac.uk/keepers-extra/ensuringthefuture/
Anne Robertson, who has led the development of Digimap for Schools at EDINA, said “Aerial Photography adds an exciting new dimension to online mapping in schools by allowing students to see what is physically on the ground alongside the premier Ordnance Survey maps. This is a key reference dataset in teaching Geography and Earth Sciences, as well as offering insight for a range of other subjects. Digimap for Schools can now allow students to see the different places they know, such as home and school buildings, as well as features included in maps, such as different road and rail links and types of land use, from woodland, arable farming and pasture and can even identify archaeological sites.”

• Digimap for Schools: digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk

Over the Summer an Ordnance Survey competition saw primary school children across Britain taking wildlife photos and plotting them on a map of their school’s area. In total 254 schools registered for the competition and 48 submitted entries. Mengham Junior School in Hayling Island was selected as the overall winner. As a prize they received a visit from BBC wildlife presenter Steve Backshall who spent a morning at the school, taking the winning class on a nature walk and talking to other pupils.

The competition was an excellent opportunity to show how mapping is relevant to many parts of the curriculum, not just geography – flora and fauna study, numeracy, history, ICT, outdoor learning, physical education to name a few.

• https://twitter.com/hashtag/wildlifemap

We are pleased to announce the addition of aerial photography into Digimap for Schools. These high resolution images of Britain have been made available by Getmapping a leading provider of aerial photography, and can now be used by pupils, students and teachers in 2,500 primary and secondary schools. The images can also be overlaid onto the current and historic Ordnance Survey mapping.

Following requests from the teachers for historic mapping, coverage dating from the 1890s and then the 1950s was added through the generosity of the National Library of Scotland which had digitised OS paper maps. One key dataset in demand from teachers missing until now has been aerial photography.

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New Licences, New Data, New styling for Digimap

Several significant developments have occurred with Digimap since our last newsletter update.

At the start of the Summer, Digimap Collections homepage was given new styling. The layout and operation were retained, for familiarity to regular users, but the graphics were updated for a more modern and fresh look.

New Jisc licences then came into force for three Collections: Ordnance Survey, Geology and Historic. A change of licence requires every user to agree to new terms, therefore every registered user is now asked to do this when they next login, as a one-off process.

Finally, preparations were also made for the inclusion of a new collection – Aerial Digimap. Full details will be communicated to institutions over the coming weeks and reported more widely in due course.

In amongst all of that, we have also processed updates to a number of datasets available through the Ordnance Survey collection and most recently applied a new style for OS MasterMap Topography layer.

These are the maps displayed at the three most detailed zoom levels in Digimap OS Roam. The original style, created more than ten years ago, followed the official style published by Ordnance Survey and has undergone little change since its creation. Later this year Ordnance Survey are making significant changes to the underlying MasterMap data so we thought it was high time the cartography was refreshed to give it a more modern feel.

“The new MasterMap styling looks really good! The colours are an obvious improvement but to get the labels looking so good is a huge achievement”

Charley Glynn - Cartographic Design Consultant at Ordnance Survey

“Applaud the tweaking of our product stylesheets by EDINA for OS Roam, looks spot-on”

Christopher Wesson - Cartographic Design Consultant at Ordnance Survey (via twitter)

Events

Repository Fringe 2016 - roundup and materials are available from the event website
1-2 August 2016, Edinburgh
http://rfringe16.blogs.edina.ac.uk/programme/

GeoDATA London Showcase
1 December 2016

UK QGIS user group meeting
3 November 2016, Edinburgh

GeoDATA Scotland Showcase
6 October 2016, Edinburgh

Esri UK Scottish Conference
4 October 2016, Perth