

UNION CATALOGUE OF ART BOOKS IN LIBRARIES IN SCOTLAND

REPORT BY THE SCOTTISH VISUAL ARTS GROUP

2002

Contents

Main report

Appendices

1. Sample Survey
2. Documentation & Survey of all Scottish Visual Arts Group members
3. List of all Scottish Visual Arts Group members
4. Feasibility study for a distributed catalogue
Possible sources of funding
5. Examples of Union Catalogue Approaches

Bibliography

UNION CATALOGUE OF ART BOOKS IN LIBRARIES IN SCOTLAND

Report from the Scottish Visual Arts Group to the National Library of Scotland and the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries.

Background & Methodology

Following the meeting with representatives of the Union Catalogue of Art Books in Libraries in Scotland (UCABLIS) with Cate Newton, Director of General Collections, held at the National Library of Scotland on 1 June 2001, it was agreed that the Scottish Visual Arts Group (SVAG), would investigate possible solutions for the future of the Ucablis catalogue and serials listing.

- the UCABLIS catalogue would be mothballed until June 2003, with no further records being added and an appropriate warning mounted on the National Library's website.
- the Art Serials in Scottish Libraries was out of date and not in an appropriate format to be searched on-line.

At the following Scottish Visual Arts Group meeting on 20 June 2001, a sub-group providing representation for each type of library in UCABLIS and SVAG, academic, gallery, college of art and public, was set up to investigate various possibilities.

Membership as follows:

Richard Bapty, Glasgow University Library, Art Section; Secretary of SVAG
Louisa Coles, Researcher, Robert Gordon University
Jane Furness, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art; Publicity Officer SVAG
Wilson Smith, Edinburgh College of Art; Convenor of SVAG 2002 -
Hilary Williamson, Edinburgh City Libraries, Fine Art Library; Convenor of SVAG 1996 - 2002

In particular the sub-group would examine:

- technical developments facilitating automated cross-searching of library holdings
- the possibility of creating a 'clump' catalogue on the CAIRNS model as a solution
- how best to facilitate cross-conversion of UKMARC records supplied by academic libraries and CALM (Combined Archive and Library Management) records, produced by the Scottish Museums, to the MARC21 format supported by the National Library of Scotland Voyager system

The meeting expressed an initial interest in maintaining a current printed list of art serials and offers were made to investigate collating a list for Edinburgh libraries and the feasibility and demand for producing a similar listing for Glasgow for local usage.

After some consideration, local lists were not considered appropriate in view of other current and projected periodical listings. The Scottish Academic Libraries Serials database (SALSER), could provide local information and the Art Libraries Society (Arlis) UK-wide Union List of Art, Architecture and Design Serials would eventually render revision of the Scottish listing obsolete.

THE UCABLIS CATALOGUE

The sub-group exchanged information and views including:

- other examples of co-operative working in the UK and abroad
- physical union catalogue versus virtual union catalogue/clumps
- technical issues
- impracticalities of hosting
- funding
- projected uses of any catalogue

Immediately the intention became to achieve a technical solution in line with developments in Scotland, rather than preserve the existing catalogue under another host. Contact was made with Dennis Nicholson , CAIRNS Project Director, for technical advice and a meeting held in January 2002.

A sample survey of members was carried out to ascertain the main areas of investigation prior to the meeting.

The survey sample and results are shown in Appendix 1

Dennis Nicholson presented a solution that would provide a distributed system based on Scottish Collections Network Extensions (SCONE) or Co-operative Academic Retrieval Network for Scotland (CAIRNS). This would provide solutions at several levels.

- The remit would expand from UCABLIS members to include all members of SVAG.
- All the main art libraries in Scotland would be linked by this scheme.
- SVAG would have a stronger base, through direct access to their catalogues.
- A prototype would be available for smaller institutions with important stock, but without online catalogues.

This could be achieved through:

- Using current information available from the online SVAG directory and online catalogue links.
- UCABLIS indices would enable users to only search UCABLIS/SVAG resources in the distributed catalogue rather than just UCABLIS-orientated searches on the whole collection at each site.
- The distributed method would allow autonomy for all members.

- It would require all participating organisations mounting Z39.50 compatible catalogues, able to output MARC or possibly XML.
- It would require funding at local library level. (c. £1 - 7,000 depending on supplier)

Possible difficulties to realising this solution may arise through:

- Some SVAG members being parts of larger institutions that were already committed to alternative catalogue provision.
- Some SVAG members' institutions having alternative political aims.
- Some SVAG members being unable to support the funding required.

However organisations could work towards this joint solution by installing Z39.50 and UCABLIS indexes. Collection level descriptions could be added in SCONE for those organisations that did not have Zservers.

A further survey was taken of all members of SVAG to ascertain if this was theoretically worth pursuing.

See Appendix 2 for questions and results.

Appendix 3 – Membership of Scottish Visual Arts Group

Recommendations

- The National Library of Scotland endorses the report
- SVAG members lobby within institutions towards the distributed method of searching.
- The support of SCURL is sought to promote this solution to their member institutions and lobby any libraries outwith SCURL to pursue this solution.
- The distributed method of searching Scottish libraries catalogues is further investigated via a feasibility study.
- Funding is sought for a pilot scheme to search Scottish libraries' catalogues.

*See Appendix 4 – Notes for Feasibility Study of a Distributed Catalogue
Possible Sources of Funding*

Richard Baptie
Louisa Coles
Jane Furness
Wilson Smith
Hilary Williamson

September 2002

Appendix 1

Sample Survey

Appendix 2

To all Scottish Visual Arts Group Members:

Please find attached commentary on the proposals for the future of the Union Catalogue of Art Books in Libraries in Scotland. Although you may not have previously been a member of Ucablis, there is now the opportunity for the Scottish Visual Arts Group and its member institutions to move forward.

It is vital that you read the following summary and answer the questionnaire as soon as possible. **The deadline is 24 February 2002.**

If you are unable to answer the technical questions, please ask someone in your institution who does know. If you are not clear about any of the questions, please telephone or e-mail Wilson Smith at Edinburgh College of Art (tel: 0131 221 6034 e-mail: w.smith@eca.ac.uk)

Please note that this summary and questionnaire is also being sent by snail mail for those who are not part of the discussion list.

Please respond by the 24 February by whichever format is most suitable.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Richard Bapty
Jane Furness
Wilson Smith
Hil Williamson

Ucablis Sub-Group

January 2002

Union Catalogue of Art Books in Libraries in Scotland (Ucablis)

Following a meeting of the Ucablis Sub-group (Hil Williamson, Jane Furness, Richard Bapty, Wilson Smith) with Dennis Nicholson of Strathclyde University, on 16 January 2002 at Edinburgh City Libraries, we are making the following proposals for the future of Ucablis. These are not only possible solutions, but an improvement to the current status.

There is the opportunity to expand the union catalogue to perform to its full mnemonic, in that membership would extend to include all major and some smaller art information providers in Scotland (i.e. the full membership of the Scottish Visual Arts Group). It should be noted that the original title of Ucablis was altered from Edinburgh to Scotland on the addition of the Mitchell Library's serials listing and no further additions to either the catalogue or the serials listing were made.

As this new expanded catalogue would comprise the membership of the Scottish Visual Arts Group, it may be politic to alter the title of the catalogue accordingly. Partial access will shortly be possible via the up-dated Scottish Visual Arts Group directory which will provide links to members' catalogues where they are online.

Apart from increased access to collections, it should also be stressed that this is a major opportunity for the Scottish Visual Arts Group. This would alter our status from minor interest group to a major, national professional body with streamlined access to art resources throughout Scotland. However this will require commitment from all members.

We are aware that not all those attending Scottish Visual Arts Group meetings are in the position of being able to choose policy and priorities within their institutions. In fact in the majority of cases member libraries are departments or faculties within very large institutions. We have therefore sought to find methods of providing this combined subject catalogue which are in line with current and proposed developments in most major libraries in Scotland.

We are also aware that smaller collections may find it difficult to ascertain their viability for this project. If you are in this situation please note this on your response and one of the members of the sub-group will contact you to discuss your particular situation or contact Wilson Smith (details as above). It may be possible to mount entries for smaller collections or provide information on SCONE (Scottish Collections Network Extensions) <http://scone.strath.ac.uk> However this approach is impractical from the Group's point of view in that we would require one institution to host it requiring staff time and ensuing costs.

The most satisfactory and autonomous way of offering access to members' catalogues would be via CAIRNS (Co-operative Academic Information Retrieval Network <http://cairns.lib.gla.ac.uk>) - a distributed catalogue which

would offer cross domain searching. The clump methodology would avoid cross conversion but would require that all participating members were Z39.50 compliant and produced MARC records.

Alternatively the new union catalogue could be a mini-clump and part of Cosmic (Confederation of Scottish Mini-Clumps) <http://cosmic.cdlr.strath.ac.uk/members.html>).

I would strongly recommend viewing all the above websites before answering the attached questionnaire. It is worth more than paragraphs of descriptions!

Thank you for your co-operation in this project.

Hil Williamson
January 2002

QUESTIONNAIRE

- *Is your institution already a member of CAIRNS?*
- *Is your catalogue currently Z39.50 compatible?*
- *Would your institution be interested, in principle, in participating in:
A) a Scotland-wide Cairns clump?
B) a Cosmic mini-clump?*
- *What cataloguing standard and format do you currently use?
(e.g. AACR/MARC CALM)*
- *If such a Union Catalogue existed, would you use it?*
- *Please see Appendix 1 for the existing Ucablis subject coverage. Are there any subjects you would wish to add to this for your institution?*

if you have any comments or concerns, please mention them below:

Appendix I - Ucablis: Subject Coverage
(as at June 1993)

Aesthetics

Archaeology: prehistoric, ancient, classical and industrial

Architectural plans

Architecture: (see qualifying note under Painting below)

Arms & armour

Art therapy

Bibliographies: art

Biographies: art

Book design: binding, ex-libris, illustration, plate-books, typography

Calligraphy

Ceramics

Coins

Collections & collectors

Colour theory

Congress proceedings: art

Conservation

Crafts

Dealers

Design

Dictionaries: art

Directories: art

Documents & sources: art

Drawings

Dress & fashion

Education: art

Electronic imaging

Enamels

Encyclopedias: art

Epigraphy: lettering

Exhibition catalogues: art

Festschriften: art

Folk art

Furniture

Gallery catalogues

Gems & jewellery

Gender art

Glass

Graphic design

Guide books with art historical interest

Heraldry

Historic costume
Historic methods: art
Histories of art: general
Histories of art: institutions
Historiography: art

Iconography
Illuminated manuscripts: studies & facsimiles
Indices: art
Interior decoration
Ivories

Juvenile art

Lacquer
Landscape gardening
Law: art: general works on copyright, export & import, estate duty, insurance, international law
Library catalogues: art
Letters by artists or about art

Market: art
Medals
Metalwork
Miniatures
Mosaics
Mural painting
Museum studies

National costume
Needlework

Oeuvre catalogues

Painting: monographs on individual artists, works on national schools, movements, periods, styles, etc.
Palaeography (where related to production centres of illuminated manuscripts)
Patronage of art
Pattern books
Photography
Poster design
Print (including topographical prints)
Psychology of art

Reproductions
Restoration
Rugs & carpets

Sale catalogues: art

Sculpture, applied: plasterwork, wood-carving
Sculpture: all media (see qualifying note under Painting above)
Seals
Stained glass
Symbolism

Tapestry
Technique & materials: engraving etc.
Textiles
Theatrical design: sets & costume
Tribal & ethnic

Yearbooks: art

Works on the following subjects should not be reported to Ucablis:

Advertising
Building materials
Clocks & watches
Engineering
How-to-do-it books
Postage stamps

Appendix 3

Scottish Visual Arts Group Members

Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museum (c)
Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde (c)
Crawford Arts Centre (c)
Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design
Edinburgh City Libraries Fine Art Department
Edinburgh College of Art, Art & Design Library
Edinburgh College of Art, Environmental Studies Library
Georgina Scott Sutherland Library (Gray's School of Art & Scott Sutherland
School of Architecture)
Glasgow School of Art Library
Historic Scotland Library
Historic Scotland Photographic Library
Mitchell Library Arts Department
Napier University Learning Information Services
National Gallery of Scotland Library
National Library of Scotland
National Museum of Scotland Library
National War Museum of Scotland Library
Perth Museum & Art Gallery (still to be confirmed)
Pier Arts Centre
Royal Scottish Academy Collections (c)
Scottish Arts Council (c)
Scottish Museums Council (c)
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art Library
Scottish National Portrait Gallery Library
University of Aberdeen, Queen Mother Library
University of Edinburgh Library
University of Edinburgh Architecture Library
University of Edinburgh Fine Art Department, Monograph and Photographic
Library
University of Edinburgh Fine Art Department, Slide Library
University of Glasgow, Fine Art Department
University of St Andrews School of Art History, Slide Collection
University of Strathclyde Andersonian Library

(c) = corresponding member

Appendix 4

Feasibility Study for a Distributed Catalogue

Methodologies would have to be explored further between SVAG and the team chosen to conduct the research, but could include the following:
Further desk research on the options and considerations associated with adopting the distributed approach, including further investigation into existing examples.

Analysis of user and provider requirements through a combination of surveys and interviews.

Exploration and analysis of the financial, political and technological implications of the implementation of a distributed catalogue approach (specific to the circumstances of the potential contributors to the catalogue).

Possible sources of Funding

Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB)

The AHRB Research Grant Scheme under panel 6, Librarianship, Information and Museum Studies

<http://www.ahrb.ac.uk/research/grant/index.htm>

Eligibility: Applicants must be full or part time academic or academic-related staff of higher education institutions. They should be actively engaged in research and be of postdoctoral standing.

Evaluators/references: The application requires nomination of six independent evaluators, two of whom will be approached to comment on the application.

Funding: from £5,000 to £500,000 for up to five years

Closing dates: 29 November 2002 / 30 May 2003

The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)

'JISC promotes the innovative application and use of information systems and information technology in further and higher education across the UK'

The proposed study does not fall under the focus of any current calls, but later JISC circulars may match the requirements of SVAG.

Visual Arts Data Service (VADS)

VADS collaborative work spans formal arrangements with funding bodies, relationships with organisations and institutions, discussions with resource creators and users and informal promotional activities.

<http://vads.ahds.ac.uk/collaboration/index.html>

Humanities Hub (HUMBUL)

'Portalisation' advice and Z39.50 resourcefinder cross search facilities. Also involved in developing partnerships amongst UK public sector organisations

<http://www.humbul.ac.uk>

or <http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk>

Appendix 5
Examples of Union Catalogue Approaches

M25 Link Project

<http://www.m25lib.ac.uk/M25link/>

Also: M25 Link Project Interim Evaluation Report

http://www.m25lib.ac.uk/M25link/documentation/interim_evaluation_report/InterimEvalReportContents.html

Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/resource/vcuc/>

Also: Lunau C D (1998) *The Virtual Union Catalogue Project (vCuc): Using Z39.50 to Emulate a Centralized Union Catalogue* Paper presented at 64th IFLA General Conference August 16 – 21 1998

Available on-line at <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla64/081-160e.htm>

COPAC

<http://www.copac.ac.uk/copac/about.html>

Also: CURL Feasibility Study to investigate Potential Applications and Strategic Implications of Z39.50 Technology on the COPAC Service (Report published September 1998)

<http://www.curl.ac.uk/projects/z3950.html>

Union List of Art, Architecture and Design Serials

<http://www.nal.vam.ac.uk/>

French Union Catalogue

http://www.bnf.fr/site_bnf_eng/ccFrgb/02.htm

Also: Lenart M (1999) Les Catalogues Collectifs: problematique generale et choix techniques *Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France* 44 (4), pp70-78.

Available online at: <http://www.enssib.fr/Enssib/bbf/bbf-99-4/10-lenart.pdf>

National Library of Australia

<http://www.nla.gov.au/ucpl/>

CORSALL: Collaboration in research support by academic libraries in Leicestershire

Report includes brief discussion on union catalogues:

<http://www.library.dmu.ac.uk/Research/CORSALL/Report/index.html>

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