



# Resource Sharing and Role of Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities (IndCat)

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## Abstract

INFLIBNET centre has developed a union database of various library resources ie, Book, Theses & Serials. IndCat: Online Union Catalogue of Indian Universities is a catalogue of Books, Theses and journals available in major University libraries in India. IndCat is the Union catalogue of Books, theses and journals in all subject areas available in 203 University libraries across the country. IndCat provides bibliographical description, location and holdings information about books, theses and serials of all disciplines of Indian Universities available in open access and through in house developed web interface at <http://indcat.inflibnet.ac.in>.

Purpose of this paper is to describe the online Union catalogue of Indian Universities which is maintained by INFLIBNET for University libraries in India. Growth of Books database Thesis database and Serials database of participating universities/institutes in India are discussed in this paper.

**Index Terms:** bibliographic records, IndCat, Union Catalogue, resource sharing, Online Copy Catalogue System(OCS)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this Information era due to advent of information technology there occurs tremendous growth in information. Information occurs in different forms. As a result of this information explosion demands and needs of the users are also changing. To cope up with users demands is big challenge before libraries. To solve such problem, the concept of resource sharing has been come in to existence.

## II CONCEPT OF RESOURCE SHARING

According to Chatterjee[1] "it will not merely mean mutual sharing of information sources available in different libraries, it will mean utilizing the information sources of one library for generating services by another library". In India various efforts of resource sharing has been made. INFLIBNET an Inter University Center of UGC took initiative to develop Union Catalogue.

Various efforts at national and international level are carried out to develop Union Catalogue. In India various efforts of resource sharing has been made. INFLIBNET an Inter University Center of UGC took initiative to develop Union Catalogue At National level. INFLIBNET maintain the Union Catalogue of Books, Theses and serials of major Indian universities/institutes. IndCat facilitates the resources sharing & Inter library loan.

## III. PRESENT STATUS OF INDCAT

IndCat is the Union database of books, theses and serials containing bibliographic description and holdings information. INFLIBNET designed a Web-based interface which provide easy access to merged catalogue of Books, Theses and Serials of major Indian libraries. It helps for Inter library loan, collection development and Copy cataloguing and Retro conversion of bibliographical records in libraries in Indian universities/institutes

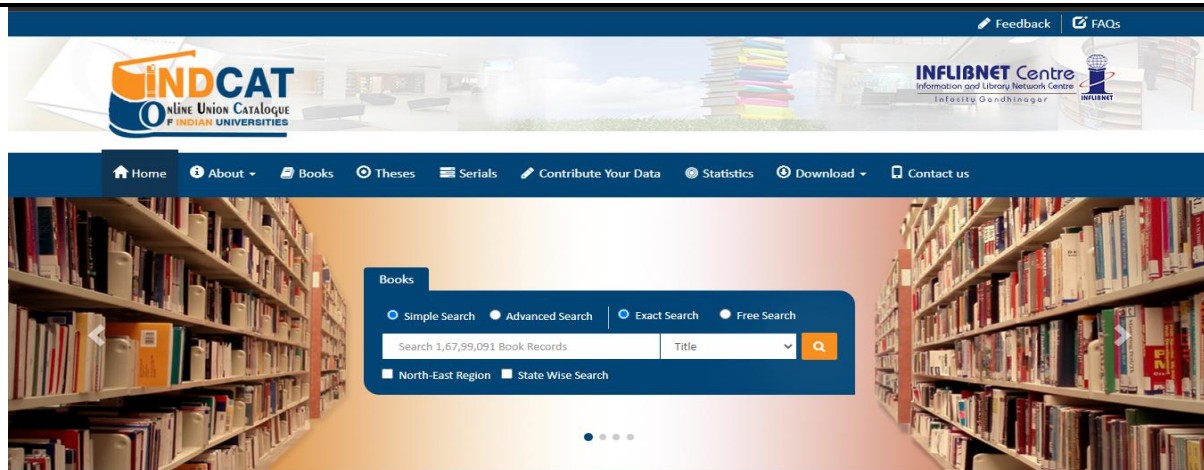


Figure 1. Homepage of IndCat

Table no.1 Current Status of Indcat

Sr. No	Database	No of Records	No of Universities
1	Books	1,67,99091	204
2	Theses	4,41,683	444
3	Serials	35,416	226

IndCat- Book Database has 1,24,81,085 unique Records of 204 Indian Universities with 1,6796512 holding, Thesis database has 4,41,683 Unique Ph.D. records of 444 Universities, Serial database has 35,368 records of 226 Institutions in India. IndCat- Book Database provides bibliographic details i.e. Title, author, place, Publisher, ISBN, Edition, Physical Description, Publication year, Subject, Class No. etc with holding details monographs, Reference Books, conference proceedings and Textbooks are included in Ind Cat in standard bibliographic format MARC & MARCXML.

#### IV. OBJECTIVES OF INDCAT

Primary Objective of Ind Cat is to provide access to bibliographic records of books, theses and serials in University libraries, institutions and research organization of Indian Universities. This bibliographic Information can be used for Inter-library loan, collection development, copy cataloguing and for retro-conversion of bibliographic records.

#### V. SUBSET OF INDCAT

Guj Cat & NER Cat are the two subsets of Ind Cat

##### 5.1. GujCat

It is an online library catalogue of books available in major college/institutes/ Universities libraries in Gujarat State. In this guj Cat bibliographic description of books, location of books and holdings information of books available in libraries in gujrat state.

##### 5.2. NerCat

It is an online catalogue of books in Universities in North-Eastern Region. It provides bibliographic description of records of University libraries in North-eastern region Universities.

##### 5.3. Online Copy Catalogue System (OCS)

It is a window based application to promote Co- Operative cataloguing and avoid duplication of efforts. This system facilitates libraries to catalogue their new acquisitions online. Currently 24 Universities have started online data contribution through OCS for the IndCat.

## VI. BOOK DATABASE

Book database is the database of books with their bibliographic descriptions and holding details from Indian Universities.

**Table 5.1. :** Growth of Book Database from 1999 to 2021 (As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021)

Year	Records (lakhs)	Universities
1999	2.7	40
2003	5.8	60
2007	30.3	92
2011	61.8	130
2013	73	150
2015	75.7	159
2017	83	173
2019	84.19	176
2021	115	199

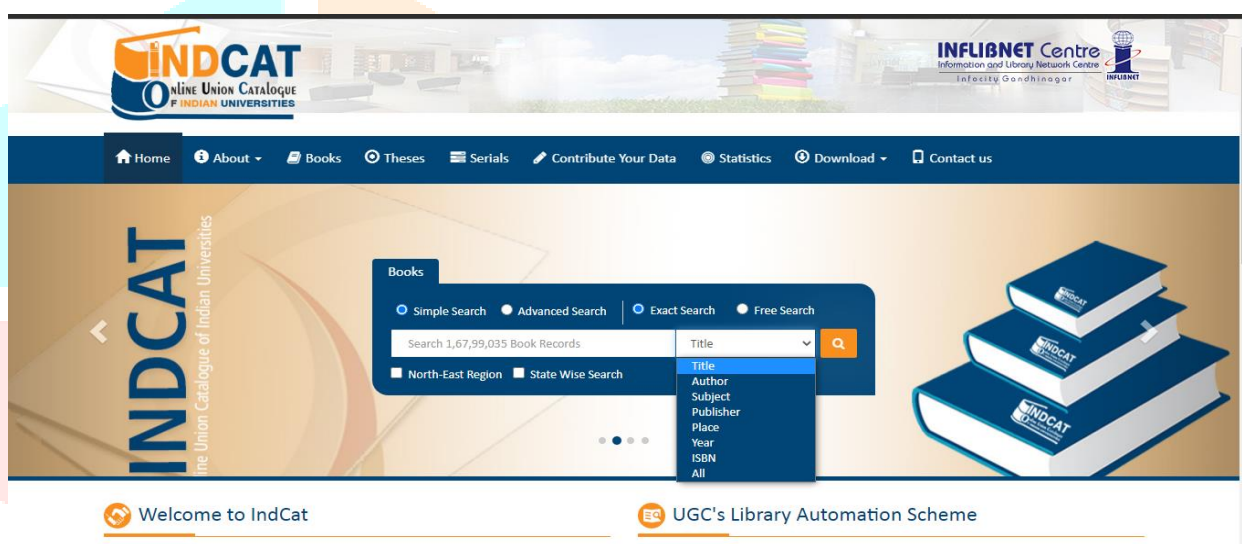


Figure 1.Homepage of IndCat Database

Table 5.1 Shows the growth of IndCat book database from 1999- 2021 as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. In year 1999 only 40 universities contributed with 2.7 lakh records and in 2003, total 5.8 records contributed by 60 Universities. In 2007 total 3003 lakh records contributed by 92 Universities. In 2013 73 lakh records contributes by 150 Universities. In 2015 75.7 lakh records contributes by 159 universities. In 2017 83 lakh records contributed by 173 Universities. In year 2019 84.19 lakh records contributed by 176 Universities in India. In year 2021 total 115 lakh records contributed by 199 Universities. Table 5.1 shows continuous growth in records.

## VI. THESES DATABASE

Thesis database contains Ph.D Theses submitted in Indian Universities. IndCat theses database covers the metadata of doctoral Theses submitted to 444 Universities/ Institutes in India. On 12/01/2021 there are total 4,41,683 unique records from all subject areas. All the records available in ShodhGanga E-Theses repository are available in IndCat's Thesis database.

**Table 6.1 :** Growth of Theses Database From 1995 to 2021 (As 31<sup>st</sup> march)

Year	Records	Universities
1995	52,000	82
1997	72,000	110
1999	1,15,000	149
2001	1,35,000	172
2003	1,48,000	198
2005	1,71,176	211
2007	1,75,206	213
2009	2,20,206	237
2011	2,38,475	245
2013	2,52,885	286
2015	2,65,727	301
2017	2,71,581	315
2019	4,37,627	443
2021	4,41,141	444

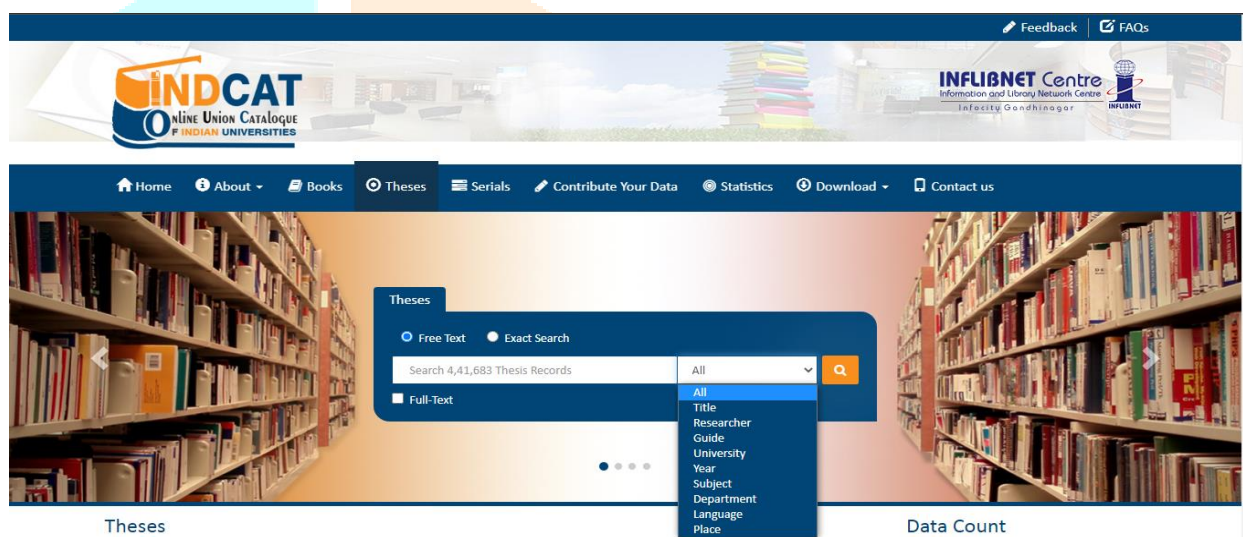
**Figure 3** Interface of Theses Database

Table 6.1. displayed that there is continuous growth of records and contributing Universities from 1995 to 2021. In year 1995 there are total 52000 records contributed by 82 Universities. In 1997 total 72,000 records contributed by 110 Universities. In 2001 total 1,35,000 records contributed by 172 Universities. In 2003 total 1,48,000 records contributed by 198 Universities. In year 2007, total 213 Universities contributed 1,75,206 records. In 2009 total 2,20,206 records contributed by 237 Universities.

In year 2011 total 2,38,475 records contributed by 245 Universities. In 2013 total 2,52,885 records contributed by 286 Universities. In year 2015 total 2,65,727 records contributed by 301 Universities. In year 2019 total 4,37,627 records contributed by 443 Universities. In year 2021 total 4,41,141 records contributed by 444 Universities.

There are exponential growth observed from 1995 to 2021 and in year 2021 444 Universities starting to contribute their Theses.

## VII SERIALS DATABASES

In this database Ind Cat maintains and provides the bibliographic information of journals subscribed in various universities. Up till now serials Database contains bibliographic information of 33368 serials records (including journals, Periodicals, annuals and serials) from 226 universities/ institute libraries. This database provides bibliographic records with title, publisher, frequency, year of publication homepage URL and subject headings along with holding details with name of the



Universities.

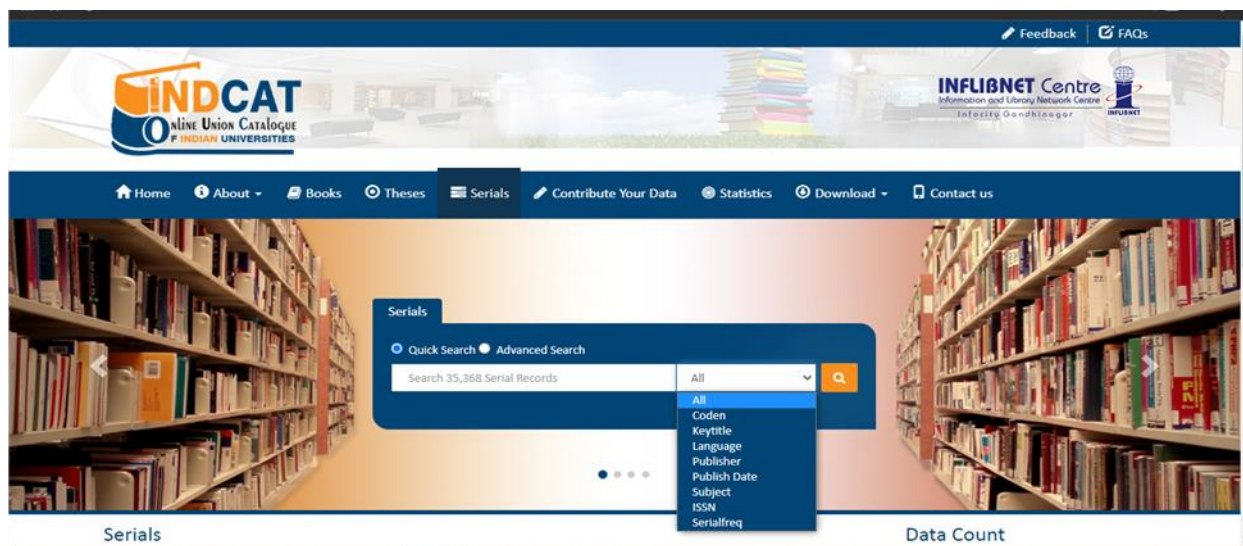


Figure 5. Interface of Serial database of IndCat

Table no. 7.1 Table growth of serial database from 1999-2021 is described

Year	Records (lakhs)	Universities
1999	8,997	130
2003	13,751	190
2007	13,881	200
2011	16,842	213
2015	35,248	223
2019	35,234	229
2021	35,275	230

Figure 4. Interface of Serials Database in IndCat

Table 7.1 shows that in year 1999 there are total 8997 serials records contributed by 130 Universities in India. In year 2003 total 13,751 serial records contributed by 190 Universities. In year 2007 total 13,881 serials records contributed by 200 Universities. In the year 2011 total 16,842 serials records contributed by 213 Indian Universities. In 2015 total 35248 serials records contributed by 223 Universities. In year 2019 total 35,234 serials records contributed by 229 Universities. In year 2021 total 35m275 serials records contributed by 230 Universities Table shows that there is continuous growth in serials contribution of Indian Universities.

**7.1 Serials Database included Serial Holdings** This holding provides data on library holdings ie back files of journals and includes bibliographic information of Serial including journals, periodicals, annuals & Serials.

## 7.2 E-journals

In this database two types of e-journals bibliographic details are given.

1. Journals currently subscribed by the Universities in electronic format.
2. Journals subscribed under e- Shodhsindu consortium in electronic format.

## 7.3. Current Serials

This database includes currently subscribed print serials by the Universities.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

IndCat is a Web-based interface designed by INFLIBNET. It is free online catalogue of Books, Theses and Serials. IndCat Contains bibliographic information location and holdings of Books, Theses and serials in standard bibliographic formats ie. MARC, MARCXML of all subjects from in Indian Universities. It is largest source of bibliographical description of books, Theses and Serials from Indian Universities.

IndCat providing platform for researchers and helps for Inter library loan to search related literature recommendations. It is suggested that most of the universities came together and contribute their Books, Theses and Serials records to IndCat so that researchers can get more and more access to available literature from Indian Universities. It is a useful tool for implementation of resource sharing, inter library loan and document delivery services of print and electronic format collection. On the basis of findings it is recommended that universities must promote the academic libraries to support information resource sharing. Further Inter library loan (ILL) should be given more importance for high demand and rare resources.

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