# **Union Catalog of Myanmar Academic Libraries (UCMAL)**

Ni Ni Naing
Librarian
Universities' Central Library
Yangon, Myanmar

#### **Abstract**

A union catalog is a combined library catalog describing the collections of a number of libraries. Union catalogs have been created in a range of media including the book format. Print Union catalogs are typically arranged by title, author and subject. The electronic versions typically support Keyword, Browse and Expert Search (Boolean queries).

In this paper, a brief description and history of the Union Catalog, how Universities' Central Library and 23 University Libraries initiated this UCMAL project and a description of the he Union Catalog is a valuable tool for researchers, librarians, students and library patrons as it assists in locating and requesting materials from other libraries through the inter-library loan service. They also allow researchers to search through collections to which they would not otherwise have access.

In the paper, it will explain about Union Catalog of Myanmar Academic Libraries (UCMAL) project which was initiated by the Universities' Central Library (UCL). It is a combined catalog of the major University Libraries in Myanmar. Currently, the Union Catalog of Myanmar Academic Libraries has details of more than 229,500 book titles, in Myanmar and English, from 23 major university libraries.

# Introduction

It is known that in the year 1799, during the reign of King Pa Don @ King Bodawpaya (1781-1819) of the Konbaung dynasty who founded the golden city of Amarapura, the Venerable Moung Htoung Sayadaw had compiled a collection of the Palm leaf manuscripts of the Pitakas.

So it shows that the Union Catalog had been in use in Myanmar Pitaka Taiks (library of Buddhist scriptures) since the reign of Myanmar Kings.

In the year 2000, Universities' Central Library (UCL) started using library Automation System (ELIB) and it was introduced to other Universities and colleges for use. In 2013 UCL started leading all Universities and Colleges under the Ministry of Education to become a webbased e-Catalog. Firstly, most of the University libraries in the whole country with e-Catalog had already changed to library Automation System that is the International Standard (Machine Readable Cataloging MARC Format.

In May 2013, two Library Automation System (e-Circulation) Training courses were conducted at the Universities' Central Library for librarians and library staff, one for Upper Myanmar University libraries and one for Lower Myanmar University libraries. Altogether 98 trainees attended the courses. The syllabus included data entry, database creation, backup system, upload system, how to connect e-book with e-Catalog etc.

The website for the UCL was launched in 2015. At the same time, the online catalog of the Universities Central Library was included. As the UCL led this initiative, most of the University libraries under the Ministry of Education also came to become the e-Catalog. Hence the UCL website has been visited by over four hundred thousand people and is still being visited now.

# **UCL's Online Public Access Catalog**

The Universities' Central Library has an e-Resources page to access a wide range of Electronic Resources including Online Databases, full-text Journal articles and indexes, eBooks, Newspapers, Magazines, etc.

e-Catalogs of the Universities' Central Library can be searched here where catalogs of a total of 70,613 books, 23,707 Thesis and 12,731 Palm Leaves are available.

Most of the Universities and Colleges Libraries under the Ministry of Education do not stop their work at this e-Catalog stage and also continue to establish the Union Catalog and change over to the e-circulation system. In order to execute the change, all the librarians and library staff have to take the course on the library Automation System (MARC Format) and e-circulation training. In place of the traditional circulation system, the electronic circulation system was introduced. This initiative was directed and managed by the Universities' Central Library.

#### **Definition of the Union Catalog**

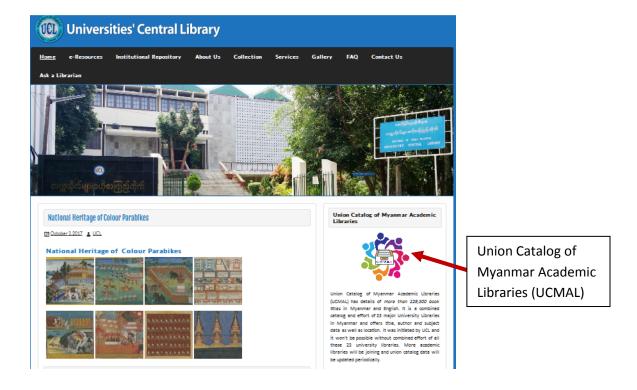
It is a Union database of a Consortium of Libraries which provides for resource sharing among participating member libraries. It empowers users to search the catalogs of ANY or ALL of the libraries with a simple, but powerful web interface.

### The Initiation of the Union Catalog of Myanmar Academic Libraries

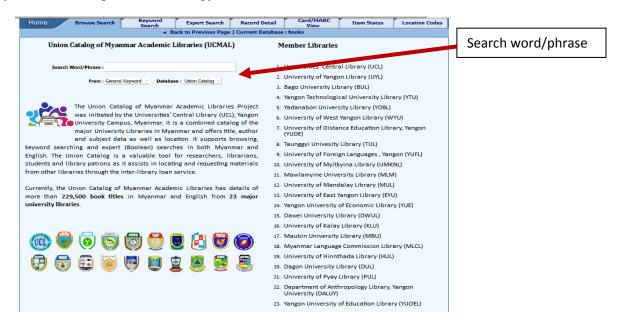
The Universities' Central Library initiated the introduction of the Union Catalog. It has been the dream of all the successive librarians that the e-Catalog from all Universities and Colleges libraries should be compiled in one Union Catalog under the Ministry of Education.

On 15 November 2017, the UCL successfully launched the Union Catalog of Myanmar Academic Libraries (UCMAL) at the website: www.uclmyanmar.org. The Union Catalog of Myanmar Academic Libraries includes 23 Libraries in Myanmar. Currently, it has details of more than 229,500 records of English and Burmese book catalogs. It offers title, author and subject data as well as location. Keyword search and Expert search can also be used to find books. Zawgyi Font should be used in order to search Myanmar books. Users can enquire through email, telephone or ask a Librarian from the UCL website. Only 23 University Libraries are included in this project but steps have been taken to invite other libraries to become members. Hence more academic libraries are expected to join and the union catalog data will be updated periodically.

### The Universities' Central Library website: www.uclmyanmar.org



Union Catalog of Myanmar Academic Libraries (UCMAL). In search for Myanmar and English books; for Myanmar books, please use Zawgyi font.

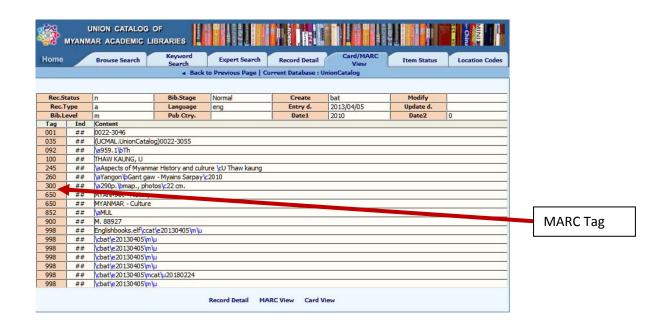


**Browse search - e.g.** use author name "Thaw Kaung, U" result with 37.

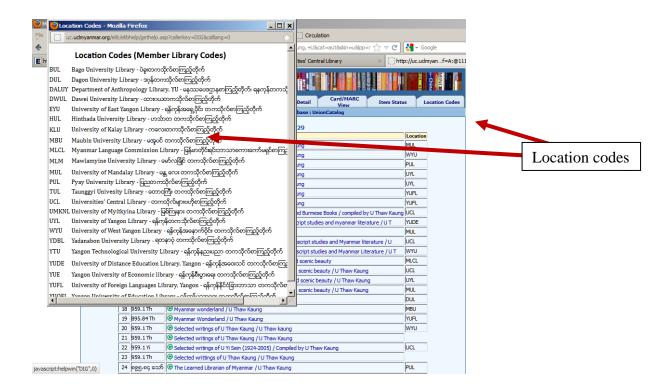


Search results of U Thaw Kaung



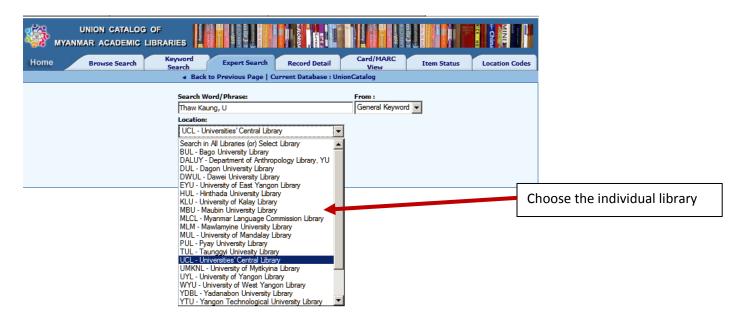


Location of books and Universities libraries name can be found. If you want to know the short form of libraries click on Menu bar.



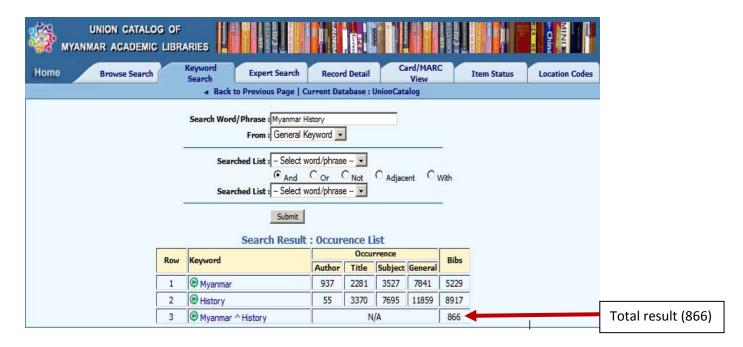
### **Expert search**

Each Universities Catalog can be visited in expert search

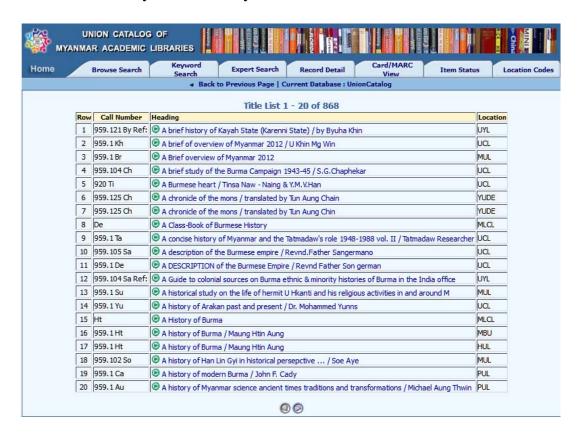


### Keyword search

Keyword search – e.g. "Myanmar History"



#### Title results of "Myanmar History" with Location



#### **Member Libraries**

- 1. Universities' Central Library
- 2. University of Yangon Library
- 3. Bago University Library
- 4. Dagon University Library
- 5. Dawei University Library
- 6. Department of Anthropology Library, University of Yangon
- 7. Hinthada University Library
- 8. Kalay University Library
- 9. Maubin University Library
- 10. Mawlamyine University Library
- 11. Myanmar Language Commission Library
- 12. Pyay University Library
- 13. Taunggyi Univesity Library

- 14. University of Distance Education Library, Yangon
- 15. University of East Yangon Library
- 16. University of Foreign Languages, Yangon
- 17. University of Mandalay Library
- 18. University of Myintkyina Library
- 19. University of West Yangon Library
- 20. Yadanabon University Library
- 21. Yangon University of Economic Library
- 22. Yangon University of Education
- 23. Yangon Technological University Library

#### **Type of Union Catalog**

Union Catalog of Myanmar Academic Libraries is Physical Union Catalog. Advantages of Physical Union Catalog are centralized control over hardware, software and bandwidth and consistency in indexing and searching. It also do high-quality consolidation of records and better quality control in original cataloguing.

# **Advantages of UCMAL**

It enables librarians can search and check the catalog when cataloging of new books and can use copy cataloging. Librarian can provide Inter-library Loan service. And then maintain Quality of the records by allowing experienced catalogers to edit the records. It enables students, researcher and all users can search any / all of these libraries using a single web based user interface from anywhere on the internet and they can know which libraries the titles are available.

#### **Conclusion**

It is useful for Researchers, Librarians and every Patron as they assist in locating and requesting materials from other libraries through interlibrary loan service. The development of Union Catalog of Myanmar Academic Libraries records involved participation of 23 "participating libraries" in Myanmar, which contribute their library's bibliographic data or catalog records to

all the users. It is recognized as bibliographic information tracking device that could locate information around the 23 Libraries in Myanmar Country. It is effective for Myanmar libraries, researchers and all users.

### **References:**

- 1. Lū' mit' chev cā 'aup' (လူ့မိတ်ဆွေစာအုပ်). Mandalay: Ludu Press, 1973.
- 2. Union Catalog of Myanmar Academic Libraries, <a href="http://www.uclmyanmar.org">http://www.uclmyanmar.org</a> (accessed December 1, 2017).
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cā kraññ" tuik' myā" (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ ပိဋကတ်တိုက် စာကြည့်တိုက်များ). Yangon:

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