



Press Release

For immediate release
6th April 2006

UnityUK goes live in the first library authorities

UnityUK, the next generation resource sharing and interlibrary loan service from The Combined Regions (TCR), has gone live in the first three library authorities to move onto the new system. This represents the first phase of libraries to migrate to UnityUK and comes just six weeks after the announcement of the launch of the new service.

Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Oxfordshire have moved over to UnityUK and are now using the service to search multiple library authority catalogues, to identify the location of resources they want and to manage interlibrary loan and resource sharing services for their customers.

Already a significant number of TCR library authority partners have signed up for UnityUK. These authorities will receive training and then be migrated to the new system in a series of phases over the coming months.

The three authorities going live in phase one will be using the first release of UnityUK. This release incorporates some 2.5 million holdings records from seven library authorities loaded against the bibliographic records within the LinkUK database. Holdings information from more libraries authorities will be incorporated into UnityUK during April, in readiness for the existing UnityWeb data load which is due to start in May 2006.

Martin Molloy, OBE, strategic director, cultural and community services, Derbyshire County Council, comments, "For many years Derbyshire County Council has used the Unity service for locating resources from outside our own stock. As a long standing user, we were very excited about the new features that UnityUK will bring to our staff and users. New features such as the improved integration with our library management system, access to a wider collection of catalogues and improved real time holdings details will enable us to provide a more efficient service to our users. It is also rewarding to know that we will be one of the first participants in the first national network for resource sharing."

A programme of training days, for new subscribers to the service, has been announced. Events are taking place around the UK and a full list of the dates and venues can be found on the new website for The Combined Regions, www.thecombineregions.com. Training is



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provided as part of the UnityUK subscription and it is easy to book using the online registration service.

UnityUK is the latest generation of the established Unity service. UnityUK will, for the first time, deliver a national network for resource sharing for the UK as it brings together the union catalogues of The Combined Regions and LinkUK. The new service uses the latest resource sharing technology from world leaders OCLC PICA (incorporating FDI) who also host and manage the new service.

UnityUK will be on show at the Library and Information Show on the 26th and 27th April, at the Pavilion, NEC, Birmingham. Visit stand 407 to see UnityUK in action.

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