

For immediate release
21st March 2006

The Combined Regions announces UnityUK: The name for its new generation resource sharing and interlibrary loan service



The Combined Regions has announced that UnityUK will be the name for its next generation resource sharing and interlibrary loan 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.

Rob Froud, county librarian, Somerset, and chair of The Combined Regions announced the UnityUK name at the Forum for Interlending day held at BLDSO on 17th March 2006, where he gave a presentation on the future of union catalogues.

At the BLDSO Rob commented, " We chose the name UnityUK as it builds on the established tradition of the Unity service and incorporates the exciting prospect of delivering national coverage through a single service. The TCR Board is delighted with the progress that the new service has made in just one month since it was announced. Our partner libraries are very excited about the functions that the new service will offer and the ease of use of the new interface. "



**Rob Froud, Chair of The Combined Regions, with
Robin Murray from OCLC PICA**

Early adopter partners will take delivery of the service, on schedule, from the 1st April, following a series of training sessions at the end of March. The full service is due to be available from mid May and the project is on target to deliver on time.



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More than 300 librarians have already registered to see a demonstration of the new service at the series of UnityUK roadshows taking place around the UK during March and April. A full list of UnityUK events can be found on the new website for The Combined Regions, www.thecombineregions.com. Places are free and it is easy to book using the online registration 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.