



## Press Release

**For immediate release**  
**8<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

### **Two new websites for UnityUK community**

TCR, in partnership with OCLC PICA, has developed two new websites for the UK's resource sharing community. Both sites are part-financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund delivered through the South Yorkshire Objective 1 Programme.

Launched today is a revamped TCR website [www.combinedregions.com](http://www.combinedregions.com), which has been extended in its scope, is richer in content and has a fresh new look. The new site contains a full list of TCR members, information about the latest product and service developments, case studies from UnityUK sites plus full details about events and roadshows. This website can be accessed by anyone interested in TCR and the UnityUK service.

A separate site, which will be a community space and information resource for all UnityUK members, will be launched early in 2007. This site is for 'members only' and is accessed from the UnityUK service ([www.unity-uk.com](http://www.unity-uk.com)), using each subscriber's service login and password.

Within the site there is a dedicated area for each of the TCR regions using UnityUK. Each region can upload and share information about UnityUK user groups and events, training sessions, useful contacts, helpful tips and presentations. Libraries will be able to keep in touch with what their own region is doing, and also share ideas and tips with other regions.

Rob Froud, County Librarian at Somerset and Chair of The Combined Regions, explains the thinking behind the new members' area website, "TCR and OCLC PICA are working together to develop a strong community amongst the UK's resource sharing community. The new members' area is an important step to achieving this aim. "

The members' area gives subscribing libraries direct access to training guides and manuals, user group details, help on contributing data, quick guides and helpful tips plus details about the latest features and developments.



Project part-financed by  
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European Regional  
Development fund





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### **Notes to editors:**

#### **About UnityUK**

UnityUK is the upgraded web-based resource sharing and interlibrary loan service provided by The Combined Regions (TCR). UnityUK, launched in May 2006, delivers leading edge functionality for union catalogue, cross database searching, holdings and item location, interlibrary loan and resource sharing services. UnityUK uses the latest international resource sharing standards and integrates with all major library management systems in use in the UK today. UnityUK also links together the union catalogues of the TCR member libraries and LinkUK library resources, to provide the first national resource sharing service for the UK.

[www.unity-uk.com](http://www.unity-uk.com)

#### **About The Combined Regions (TCR)**

The Combined Regions (TCR) is the organisation behind the Unity resource sharing service. For more than 10 years, TCR has provided interlending services to its 140 member library organisations across the South West, North East, East Midlands, North East and Scotland. Under the Unity name, TCR's resource sharing services began with a CD union catalogue, and in 2001 moved to become web-based. In February 2006, The Combined Regions announced the launch of a new and upgraded Unity service to be provided by OCLC PICA.

[www.combinedregions.com](http://www.combinedregions.com)

#### **About OCLC PICA**

As the European library cooperative, OCLC PICA offers a broad range of leading edge, high-tech solutions for professionals and end users of academic and public libraries, information centres from the government and health sector, museums, archives and other cultural institutions. Thousands of patrons daily rely on OCLC PICA systems and services for efficient cataloguing, library management, retrieval, resource sharing, portals and preservation. OCLC PICA participates in a large number of important standardisation platforms to make sure its users' interests are best represented. OCLC PICA staff consists of IT professionals, formally trained librarians and other specialists.

OCLC PICA B.V. has two share holders: OCLC Inc. and Stichting Pica. OCLC Online Computer Library Center Inc. (est. 1967) is a not-for-profit organisation and offers its services to 54,000 libraries worldwide. Stichting Pica (est. 1969) is a foundation that promotes and encourages the scientific and public information service in the Netherlands. From its head office in Leiden and regional offices in Oberhaching, Sheffield, Birmingham, Paris and Footscray, and the FDI USA office in Kansas City, OCLC PICA provides solutions developed in Leiden, Oberhaching and Sheffield. It also represents the OCLC services in Europe, Turkey, Israel and Southern Africa. More information about OCLC PICA can be found at [www.oclpica.org](http://www.oclpica.org).

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