The Dutch PiCarta service is an integrated multimaterial database including request and alerting facilities. Via a user-friendly interface, PiCarta offers electronic access to a rich range of information e.g. bibliographic descriptions, abstracts, full text, online resources and electronic documents. The user who chooses PiCarta can simultaneously search an increasing number of databases containing a wide variety of material types.

PiCarta is based on the PSI software that was developed by OCLC PICA.

DISCOVER AND LOCATE

Multiple databases integrated
PiCarta integrates a number of important databases. Within The Netherlands, users can search simultaneously in OCLC PICA databases such as the Dutch Central Catalogue and Online Contents, a database containing the tables of content of 17,000 current periodicals. In addition, an increasing number of databases is offered by external database suppliers. These are offered to institutions who have signed an appropriate license agreement. Databases available to a particular user are clearly indicated on the opening page.

Multiple formats for the hybrid library
In PiCarta, references to many different types of material are integrated. On-screen icons help users to distinguish between printed texts, maps, audiovisual material, software and online resources. In future, digitised archival materials will also be included.

Holding libraries identified
In the Dutch Central Catalogue, the Gemeinsamer Bibliotheksverband (GBV) shared database and the Système Universitaire de ABES, the French university library network, users of PiCarta in the Netherlands, and of similar interfaces in Germany and France can identify libraries that hold copies of particular items and, in many cases, link through to the library’s OPAC to view loan status and availability.

Fast, flexible searching options
PiCarta offers search facilities for new and expert users including Boolean, proximity and wildcard operators. Relevance ranking ensures that titles that best match the search terms used are presented first.

Multilingual interface
The interface is available in English, Dutch, German; ABES, the French network of university libraries has a French interface.

SDI Alerting Service
The SDI alerting service keeps PiCarta users informed about new publications via e-mail. SDI requests may be created that repeat a chosen search at regular intervals and send the results via e-mail. They may also be used to receive the table of contents from new issues of a particular serial or to be informed of the addition of new titles to the PiCarta database.

REQUEST AND DELIVER

Supply of identified materials is central to the PiCarta service. PiCarta includes a range of options for obtaining resources.

PSI - Pica Searching & Indexing
The OCLC PICA search engine
PSI is the software programme - developed by Pica - that controls web access to the OCLC PICA databases.
The most important PSI application is PiCarta, end-user access to and searching in OCLC PICA’s multimaterial database.
PSI is also used by professional users of OCLC PICA’s library systems for indexing/updating & searching.

Full text documents and digital objects are displayed online. Subject to your local library procedures, users can enter a request for all types of material in the Interlibrary Loan System. If a publication is available electronically, it will be supplied by e-mail to the user’s personal mailbox.
Vital Statistics
PiCarta contains approximately 75 million references of which almost 40 million are bibliographic data from GBV libraries in Germany and the Dutch Union Catalogue. Of the remaining 35 million references, the majority is supplied by Online Contents and Ebsco Academic Search Elite. In addition, PiCarta contains a number of specialist, academic databases. PiCarta is used by the end-users of 673 libraries in The Netherlands - of which 323 public libraries, of all academic libraries in France via the Système Universitaire de Documentation SUDOC, and by the users of GBV Search & Order.

Benefits
• Powerful search tools delivering quality content
• Intuitive Web interface designed for new and expert users
• Choice of interface languages including English, German, French and Dutch
• Seamless electronic access to bibliographic, abstract and full text information
• Icons clearly indicate format of items
• Links to library OPACs for availability
• OpenURL server