The Shared Cataloguing System – as developed by Pica - is an efficient and reliable tool to help you build and manage an electronic library, based on the needs and goals of libraries. This Central Library System provides the infrastructure for the creation and management of Union Catalogues and tools for regional Interlibrary Loan.

**Users**
Cooperatives (national, regional or subject-related such as medical libraries) of libraries and documentation centres use the Shared Cataloguing System every day to catalogue their collections. As well as, academic and public libraries an increasing number of special libraries use the Shared Cataloguing System, such as archives, museums and other documentation centres. Thus, already millions of titles are recorded in the shared catalogue.

**Cataloguing**
In the Shared Cataloguing System each publication needs to be catalogued only once. In this way organizations make optimum use of each other’s cataloguing effort. The records within the shared catalogue are composed of three logical levels: general, local and copy level. On the general level the formal bibliographic cataloguing data is visible for all participating libraries. On the local level each library adds its own specific cataloguing data, such as subject headings, systematic codes and abstracts. On the copy level information like shelf marks, barcodes and copy related annotations are recorded.

**Searching**
In order to be able to find bibliographic information simply and quickly, the shared catalogue has a powerful command-driven search system. There are as many as 38 searchable indexes that can be used and, previous searches can be combined and additional search terms added to make searches more specific.

**Benefits:**
- Economical & user friendly cataloguing
- High quality records
- Extensive searching possibilities & editing facilities
- Various types of materials
- Extensive thesaurus facilities
- Various forms of output for local catalogue building
- Option to join in national/regional ILL network
- Excellent technical & functional support by OCLC PICA

**Record formats**
All types of material can be catalogued using the Shared Cataloguing System. The record format is not only suitable for cataloguing books and periodicals but also contains a number of tags specifically defined for the cataloguing of audio-visual and sound recordings, articles from periodicals, sheet music, cartographic material, letters, software, realia and electronic documents. Thus, full justice can be done to the specific requirements for cataloguing of each type of material.

**Thesaurus facilities**
Various thesaurus facilities can be used in the Shared Cataloguing System: existing national thesauri, shared thesauri of personal names, corporations and subject headings. The cataloguing system also contains tools for libraries to build their own multilingual thesauri.

**Output**
For local catalogue building, the records from the Shared Cataloguing System can be downloaded by FTP or be exported on various media: paper, tape etc. There are also facilities for selecting, sorting and presenting the records on the basis of XML and Unicode.

**Software**
OCLC PICA has developed user-friendly software for library staff to use; WinIBW. The software operates under Windows and provides cataloguers with full editing facilities such as copy/paste, automatic linking to subject headings or authority headings and scripting facilities for defining function keys creating macro’s.
Union Catalogue
By participating in the Shared Cataloguing System libraries produce a union catalogue. They can subsequently decide to make this union catalogue accessible not only for library staff, but also for their patrons nationally or regionally. The union catalogue can thus form the basis for an Interlibrary Loan System, enabling your users to request items, or copies of items held in other libraries. Participating libraries in the Union catalogue, of course, are free to specify whether their collection is available for Interlibrary Loan.

Would you like to know more? Please contact:
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