

Product news

Elsevier Science strengthens position in medical market

With the acquisition of Hanley and Belfus Inc, a medical publisher from the Holtzbrinck Publishing Group, Elsevier Science has strengthened its medical division.

The acquisition of Hanley and Belfus follows Elsevier Science's acquisition of Harcourt Health Sciences in July 2001, which transformed Elsevier Science into the world's leading health science publisher based on annual revenues.

Scirus and FAST deliver improved search experience for researchers

Elsevier Science, the leading international publisher of scientific information, announced in conjunction with Fast Search & Transfer ASA (FAST), a leading developer of search and real-time filtering technologies, a new release of Scirus, the web search engine dedicated to science. The new version improves the user experience with more subject-specific content and features like expanded information types, dynamic teasers which highlight the search terms within the search result list, and improved relevance ranking.

The index now contains more than 107 million science specific pages, with new full-text additions like NASA reports, CogPrints pre- and postprints, and preprints from the Chemistry and Mathematics Preprint Servers. Scirus now offers over 17 million proprietary records that cannot be found using generic search engines.

The new version of Scirus contains significant enhancements aimed at assisting users with finding the most relevant results. These features have been developed using the latest search technology provided by FAST. FAST has further improved the ranking and relevance of the results by implementing 'intelligent query rewrites', which automatically attempts to understand the intention of the user and enables more intelligent searching by rewriting the queries.

As part of this new release, Scirus now includes a news feed with the latest science headlines provided by the Lexis Nexis Web Publisher News Database. This service provides access to prominent newspapers, trade journals, reference directories, legal and legislative sources, newswires and transcripts from more than 2700 sources around the world.

Personalised knowledge:

Dialog launches Dialog NewsEdge service

Dialog has announced the launch of a major new product called Dialog NewsEdge — an industry-specific, personalised current awareness and news alerting service for corporations. Dialog NewsEdge combines up-to-the-minute news, analysis and research culled from thousands of global sources with

customised editorial relevance ranking, personally managed by highly experienced editors specialising in their industry sector.

Dialog NewsEdge may be customised first by the subscribing organisation and then by individual users and departments utilising the service. Enterprise-wide customisation options include selecting content feeds according to industry sectors.

Subscription prices are determined by the number of individuals within an organisation authorised to use the web-based service.

For a free trial offer to Dialog NewsEdge, please visit <http://www.newsedge.com/dne.html> and complete the request form. Or call + 781 229 3000 from the rest of the world.

HCN clinches new online deal with NSW Health

Health Communication Network (HCN), Australia's leading medical IT and health software provider, has announced the renewal of an \$8 million deal that will enable NSW Health to provide doctors, nurses and allied health professionals with world-leading online health information through its CIAP (Clinical Information Access Program) health information database.

HCN's online information resources are the backbone of CIAP a world-leading health information access program set up by NSW Health to provide hospital clinicians with evidence-based information on treatment, drugs, guidelines and protocols. HCN has been the primary content provider for the four years that CIAP has been available.

In addition to the renewal, NSW Health has expanded its purchase to include hundreds more online medical journals and textbooks, accessed through HCN's new Unified Search Environment (USE) software, which enables users to employ a simple search engine to sift through various data sources.

Until recently, HCN's collection of online commercial health databases could only be accessed and searched individually. USE is a great tool to utilise if you do not know where to start searching for the information you need. The USE software can search multiple health databases from multiple vendors in one search.

For the first time, content for hand-held devices has also been included as part of the NSW Health deal.

Millennium on a roll at public libraries

Innovative Interfaces, a leading supplier of web-based library solutions, announced that in August 2002 six public library systems have signed a contract with Innovative: Carver County Library System, Denton Public Library System, Lakeland Li-



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brary Cooperative, Thousand Oaks Public Library, Greene County Public Library, and Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Innovative Interfaces (<http://www.iii.com>) is a leader in providing web-based automated library systems. Innovative's library automation systems are installed in thousands of libraries in 31 countries around the world.

New Zealand universities

sign copying agreement with Screenrights

The New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee (NZVCC) and Screenrights, the audio-visual copyright society, have reached an agreement which will, for the first time, give all New Zealand Universities a licence to access broadcast programs for teaching and research.

The licence agreement enables the copying of television (both free-to-air and pay-TV) and radio programs by all universities for their educational purposes. Under the terms of the licence agreement, the broadcasts copied by universities will be surveyed by an independent agency. The survey information will be used by Screenrights to make payments from the licensing fees to the copyright owners of the programs recorded.

Screenrights will also provide interested staff with on-line information about forthcoming educational programs. Lindsay Tairaoa commented that this will assist university teachers and researchers to identify potential educational resources relevant to their interests.

Screenrights is a non-profit copyright collecting society for rightsholders in film, television and radio.

Hopgood Ganim Lawyers choose Softlink

Hopgood Ganim Lawyers have chosen Softlink solutions to assist in the upgrade of their library, information, and knowledge management systems.

With over 150 staff (including sixty-seven practitioners), Hopgood Ganim is one of Queensland's largest independent law firms.

Hopgood Ganim's librarian, Helen Gambley, also the president of the Australian Law Librarians' Group (Qld Division), has chosen the Softlink range of solutions to revolutionise their library, information and knowledge management services.

For the library and information management needs, Helen found Softlink Liberty 3 to be the clear winner due to the full integration of all components (no need to purchase additional modules for web access), and the simple to use interface for all team members throughout Hopgood Ganim.

Softlink's e-Reference has been chosen to provide a web-based knowledge management solution. Again, the web based interface and simplistic user interface were strong reasons for

the choice.

Queensland health libraries are 1100th Voyager customer

Endeavor Information Systems recently announced that Queensland Health libraries, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia are the 1100th customer to select the Voyager integrated library management system. At the nineteen Queensland Health libraries, knowledge centres mainly based in large hospitals, Voyager replaces seven diverse systems.

The Voyager implementation plus the integration of Endeavor's Interlibrary Loan Module will assist the Queensland Health libraries with strategic goals, including increasing existing services to rationalise and deliver quality knowledge services and providing better support for the delivery of evidence-based medicine. The co-ordination of libraries through this new technology will also assist with co-operative resource development and consortium-based purchasing, providing money saving and time saving opportunities. The improved infrastructure, technology and information systems will improve equitable delivery of knowledge services across the state plus containment of costs for each library.

The nineteen Queensland Health libraries serve the entire state of Queensland through thirty-eight health districts. The libraries address the clinical and research needs of 60 000 Health Department staff from rural community health centres to large metropolitan hospitals.

ScienceDirect improves accessibility for the visually impaired

ScienceDirect (<http://www.sciencedirect.com>) is pleased to announce a milestone in the progress of its committed effort to improve the accessibility of the ScienceDirect platform for the visually impaired. Recent tests showed that the platform is very user-friendly and those involved with the tests are convinced it could make a serious contribution to advancing the educational and career opportunities of the visually impaired. ScienceDirect, who see these tests as just the first step, intends to continuously improve the platform for visually impaired users and wants to set the standard for other publishers in the future.

Judith Dixon, consumer relations officer at the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, says, 'When it comes to accessibility for the blind, ScienceDirect is really in very good shape. I feel that the long-term support of these issues will advance the educational and career opportunities in areas where the blind had previously limited options'.

Further testing of the next release of this functionality is planned for later in 2002. ScienceDirect will also roll-out testing in both Europe and Asia. ■

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