Publisher's Profile: Primary Source Media

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On April 17, 1995 Research Publications Inc. will officially become known as Primary Source Media. The new name reflects the company’s mission to provide primary source images and documents in a number of formats for librarians, students, educators and researchers. The change signals the company’s expansion not only into new media, but its commitment to serving a greater audience — schools and public libraries as well as academic libraries — and to providing enhanced context and access for the materials it delivers.

Research Publications was founded nearly 30 years ago in New Haven, Connecticut and became known for publishing significant scholarly research collections in microform, primarily in the humanities and social sciences. The acquisition of other small publishers brought the Declassified Documents and newspaper microform and index product lines to the company. RPI is today one of the largest suppliers of international newspapers in microform — over 35 newspapers are available in this format. In addition, many newspapers are now available in CD-ROM format including The Times, Le Monde, and The International Herald Tribune, Broadcast News™, a CD-ROM subscription title, which offers another approach to current events research, providing access to CNN, PBS, NPR and ABC broadcast transcripts.

RPI microform collections range from finite manuscript collections — such as the Virginia Woolf Papers from the Berg Collection, New York Public Library — to comprehensive printed collections based on major bibliographies, such as The Eighteenth Century collection, and Incunabula. One of the newest microform titles to be made available from RPI is Western Books: the Middle East from the Rise of Islam, offering printed sources from the holdings of Harvard University Library and the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Primary Source Media will continue to publish research collections for academic libraries, in both electronic and microform formats, under its Research Publications imprint. New offerings from Primary Source, however, will emphasize electronic access to information. Some of the newest titles to be made available from Primary Source Media this spring include:

BOOKSCOPE™

This CD-ROM book reference database is made possible by an alliance with Blackwell North America. Combining essential book information such as comprehensive title coverage, tables of contents, reviews, publisher abstracts, and author biographies with an easy to use interface, BOOKSCOPE will support a wide range of library needs, from answering patron reference queries to collection development activities. BOOKSCOPE has thorough coverage of the last six years of English language book publishing — over 350,000 titles are currently in the database. The database cumulates, with over 50,000+ titles added annually, and the addition of top trade titles ensures relevance to public library patron needs. BOOKSCOPE is updated monthly to provide users with the most accurate and current information.

NEWSLINES™

This is a visual reference database geared to the current events curriculum, updated quarterly. Over 1,000 new photos per year from Wide World Photos/ The Associated Press are put in context through accompanying captions, biographies, news analyses, maps, timelines, and further reading lists. A user friendly interface allows point and click access to images and related text.

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