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Innovations Affecting Us

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Innovations Affecting Us

NetPublisher, HTML CD for Windows, Datarware Technologies, IBM Digital Library, Compaq and Microsoft

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NetPublisher Helps Libraries Extend Services

Ameritech Library Services announced positive customer feedback on their new Internet publishing tool, NetPublisher. NetPublisher is a Windows-based publishing tool for the Internet that supports HTTP, 239.50 and gopher search protocols. It can be used to deliver all types of information including text, image, audio, video, and multimedia on a local network or via the Internet. Two libraries, Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas and the Newberry Library in Chicago, are examples of sites that have already seen significant results in expanding patron access and enhancing community awareness with NetPublisher.

Southern Methodist University serves approximately 9,500 students with a "mini-consortium" library system holding about 1.3 million titles at a number of sites. The library selected NetPublisher both to protect its unique collections and to share them with the larger community via the Internet. SMU library staff use NetPublisher to incorporate photographs and artistic images along with material from Filemaker Pro databases, text files and extracts from MARC records in their NOTIS LMS system.

A number of projects have been completed, including a new electronic collection entitled "To Delight the Eye." This project pulls together turn-of-the-century illustrations and text from 31 publications housed in the DeGolyer Library for Special Collections. Among other resources, the DeGolyer Library contains a large print collection of over 350,000 images that depict the development of the Southwest, including the effect of the locomotive on this expansion. These and other SMU collections can be viewed via http://images.library.smu.edu.

The Newberry Library, an independent research library concentrating in the humanities, selected NetPublisher to encourage use of the library's rich collections and to attract an ever-expanding public into its doors. The Newberry Library holds world-renowned collections in history and literature of Western Europe, North and South America. The library offers seminars and other special events to educate the public about its collections.

So far, information on the NetPublisher server includes a general description of the library, including its history, a description of its collections and information about recent exhibits. NetPublisher also helps bring more people to the library. The World Wide Web pages (http://www.newberry.org) publicize upcoming events, exhibits, general interest programs and provide full seminar listings. Future plans include publishing image collections and full text, as well as providing a link to the OPAC.

Mary Wyly, Associate Librarian at The Newberry Library, says that by making bibliographies of library collections available on the Internet, NetPublisher enables researchers to save time. "It's a jumpstart for people whose time is precious," said Wyly. "Even though the library doors are shut at midnight, researchers can start their work on their own schedule. And, by laying out the ground-work ahead of time, visitors on site can use their research time more efficiently."

Ameritech Library Services offers librarians a 30-day free trial of NetPublisher. To register for the 30-day free trial, go to the NetPublisher Home Page at http://netpub.als.ameritech.com. Fill out the form for registration; and, within a few days, instructions will be e-mailed to you on how to download the NetPublisher software. For more information about NetPublisher, librarians can call 1-800-556-6847 or e-mail: academic@amlibls.com. World Wide Web users can access a demo copy via: http://netpub.notis.com.

HTML CD for Windows

Prentice Hall PTR has published the HTML CD for Windows by Vivian Neou and Mimi Recker. This CD is an Internet publishing toolkit for the Windows PC. It contains all of the software and information needed to turn a Windows PC into a World Wide Web publishing system. The book gives users a comprehensive introduction to HTML, design tips for building web pages, and marketing tips to promote web pages on the WWW. Filled with shareware and freeware, the CD-ROM contains four groups of software: HTML Editors — HoTMetaL, HTML Assistant, and Microsoft Internet Assistant for Word for Windows; an HTML toolbox — containing image manipulation software, an image map editor, and an RTF to HTML converter; an HTML Document Treasure Chest — filled with home page templates, free web-compatible icons and clip art, order form templates and downloadable links to 10 web browsers; and Server Software— WHTTP, a Windows Web server.

The CD-ROM also includes a special trial version of NetManage's Internet Chameleon and a trial version of NetManage's complete Internet software, including their WebSurfer browser. Users can download more than ten Windows Web browsers using Internet Chameleon and the Windows Web browser document included on the CD.

The toolkit lets users: learn how to create web documents with HTML with expert help; build interactive web sites with forms and other HTML features; use new HTML 3 and Netscape extensions to build cutting-edge web pages.

The CD-ROM requires an IBM PC or compatible computer running Microsoft Windows 3.1 or higher in enhanced mode, a 486/66 MHz or higher processor and 8 megabytes of RAM. Hard disk space requirements for each individual program included on the CD-ROM are provided on the CD.

Datarware Technologies, Inc. Unveils Expanded Internet Strategy

Datarware Technologies, Inc. has announced the key elements of its expanded Internet strategy, including the immediate shipment of its new NetAnswer products
and services targeted at Dataware’s key customers — commercial publishers, corporations, government agencies, educational institutions, and professional firms.

Dataware’s strategy consists of six key elements:

1. NetAnswer products and services for commercial Internet publishing. Dataware aims to offer a broad and growing set of powerful software products and tailored services to enable electronic publishers to manage and distribute their information anywhere in the world, through any viable electronic medium, including the Internet, CD-ROM, online services, LANs, WANs, and any combinations of these media.

2. Continued support for industry standards, both formal and de facto. NetAnswer products support a wide range of important Internet-related standards, including HTTP; HTML 2.0, 3.0, and extensions; CGI 1.1 and above; and images in GIF, JPEG, and PDF (Adobe Acrobat). The products are compatible with browsers such as Netscape and Spyglass, with free servers such as NCSA and CERN, and with secure servers such as Netscape Commerce Server and Open Market Secure Web Server.

3. Solutions which will support customers’ mixed media strategies and which will integrate into their existing computing environments. For example, NetAnswer can support mixed media delivery, such as combining Internet and CD-ROM in various ways to meet the diverse needs of customers. NetAnswer runs on a wide range of UNIX and Microsoft NT server options, and supports standard or custom browsers on multiple platforms (including Windows, Windows 95, Macintosh, and Motif).

4. Work with other leading industry organizations to offer a more complete solution to meet customer needs or to capitalize on joint marketing opportunities.

5. Serve customers through multiple channels of distribution, including direct sales to existing and future information-providing customers, OEM sales to selected customers who require imbedded Dataware software components, and reseller arrangements for certain geographic and vertical market segments.

6. Increase the rate of investment in the Internet marketplace, including expanded product development, sales and marketing, and administrative investments.

**IBM Digital Library Makes Information Easily Available to Students in Florida**

The Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA) and IBM announced a project that makes digital copies of more than 100,000 journal articles available to students and faculty online in its first year. The organizations will add some 5,000 new articles each month thereafter. More than 2,055,000 students and 9,000 faculty at 10 state universities — the University of Florida, Florida State, Florida A & M, Florida Atlantic, Florida International, Florida Gulf Coast, and the Universities of Central, North, South and West Florida — will have immediate access to the information.

Jim Corey, Director of the Florida Center for Library Automation, says: "If you look at how students use libraries now, they go to the shelves, find the information they want and photocopy it. We want to eliminate that step, so they can push a button on their computer and the article will be delivered to them electronically. Students will no longer have to worry whether the library was open or closed. The electronic library will be open almost 24 hours."

The FCLA operates an integrated library management system which supports the online catalogs of all 10 state universities — a total of 50 library sites in 20 cities. They had a vision of making information available to students whenever, wherever, and however they want it. The IBM Digital Library offers a technology solution that stores and protects multimedia information from all over the world, maximizing the value of copyright assets and providing access to information via either public or private networks.

Other institutions that have adopted this solution include the Vatican Library, the Indiana School of Music, Marist College, Case Western Reserve University, the Institute for Scientific Information, DreamWorks Digital Animation Studio, Multimedia Archive and Retrieval Systems plc ("MARS") and EMI Music Publishing.

The fastest, easiest way to get information about IBM software is to go to the IBM Software home page at http://www.software.ibm.com. For more information about the IBM Digital Library, go to http://www.software.ibm.com/is/diglib/.

**Compaq and Microsoft Help Schools Move to Windows**

Compaq Computer Corporation and Microsoft Corporation have formed an initiative to bring together the world’s technology leaders and educators to help expand and enrich K-12 education. The initiative provides educators with the resources they need to learn about and choose solutions that include Windows-based educational software, Microsoft Windows operating systems and Compaq PCS and servers.

The initiative’s key programs are the Windows School Connection and the Education Application Server Evaluation Program. The Windows School Connection, a formal alliance of leading educational software developers, is designed to provide educators with easy access to a wide choice of top quality Windows-based educational products and services. Eighty-one educational software developers have already joined Compaq and Microsoft in the Windows School Connection program to provide more than 1000 Windows-based education applications.

The Education Application Server Evaluation Program offers a no-risk, in-school hardware and software trial evaluation. Participating schools receive a Compaq ProLiant server and three Compaq Deskpro PCS running the Microsoft BackOffice family of products, plus free installation and technical support for a 90-day trial period.

Other components include a toll-free education hotline for one-stop access to the most current information on Windows-based software applications designed for K-12; a first-ever comprehensive directory of Windows-based K-12 software arranged by grade level, curriculum areas, and administrative function. The directory includes phone numbers for more information from each of the Windows School Connection members.

The program includes hardware, software, installation and technical support from Compaq’s Certified Education Partners, a group of skilled resellers who focus on the education market. After a 90-day trial period, educators can purchase any or all of the products they have evaluated at special prices, or return the products at no cost.

Information about Compaq’s education programs is available at 1-800-88-TEACH or via the Internet (http://www.compaq.com).