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Have You Heard?

Have you heard about Subscribe96, the new subscription procurement system available from RoweCom, Inc.? This Internet-based network uses secure technology linking libraries and publishers to transmit orders, claims, renewals and payments. With business partner, Bank One, Subscribe96 is designed to provide real-time, online transactions without the use of an agent as middleman. Benefits of the system are anticipated to be: ease of use, improved control, faster response, more effective claims, and lower costs. Intuitive network service, comprehensive catalog, unlimited ship to's and fund accounts and secure payments are also listed as features of the service. Presently being tested in about 12 academic and corporate libraries, Subscribe96 will be demonstrated in a Simulation Room at the 1995 Charleston Conference. Additionally, Richard Rowe, President and CEO of RoweCom, developer of Subscribe96, will highlight the Conference’s Thursday Automation Lively Lunch. He will discuss the implications of automation on disintermediation and how his concept applies to our libraries today. More information on this agent-less system will follow in future Doc Aquis columns. For more information today, contact RoweCom at (800) 769-3266 or on the Web at http://www.rowe.com.

Since our last issue, The Faxon Company has announced the creation of Client Advisory Boards to provide key links between Faxon and its markets. The boards represent academic, medical, corporate, and federal clients. The mission of each board is to: generate client feedback on company issues, services and quality; provide perspectives on industry issues and trends; contribute perspective to company strategy and direction; provide a client-side audit function for company activities.

Faxon now offers clients the option to pay invoices through electronic funds transfer (EFT). EFT, the electronic transfer of value between banks, provides the potential for increased speed, accuracy, and cost reduction in the exchange and processing of financial data. IBM and DuPont are among the first Faxon clients to take advantage of this EFT payment option.

Faxon also announced a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) facility to allow for the electronic exchange of subscription data over the Internet. Through this facility, clients may exchange standard and non-standard data formats with Faxon. Claims, invoices and claims responses are the kinds of documents that will generally be exchanged using the FTP facility. For more information on the FTP service contact Faxon at ftp@faxon.com or contact your client service representative.

EBSCO Subscription Services announces that EBSCOdoc, EBSCO’s document delivery division, has developed a new customized awareness service called EBSCOdoc ALERT! This service provides weekly updates of recently published information using table of contents information to notify subscribers of articles in their field. Copies of articles cited are then available for delivery via EBSCOdoc. EBSCOdoc ALERT! monitors more than 25,000 publications, weighted toward the scientific, technical and medical fields.

EBSCO also announced that it is now offering an ADONIS alternative. Small volume ADONIS users will find the new Article-based ADONIS Subscription to be cost-effective. There is no subscription cost — libraries pay only for articles ordered. More info is available at www.ebsdoc.com or call (415) 259-5000.

From EBSCO Publishing comes this news item: MasterFILE FullTEXT 350 is now available through Innovative Interfaces’ INN-View online service. This is the first full-text database available through Innovative Interfaces and can be accessed by any INNOPAC user system with an Internet connection. MasterFILE 350 contains indexing and abstracting coverage for 2,300 general reference and research titles from 1984 to the present, as well as full text for 350 titles with coverage from 1990 to date.

News from OCLC includes an announcement that the OCLC PRISM service has become available 24 hours a day, 5 days a week, beginning August 3. Round-the-clock availability is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday with 23 hours on Thursday and 14 hours on Sunday.

In late August, OCLC introduced real time transfer of FirstSearch ILL records to PRISM. As soon as the requestor sends the order, it is now immediately sent to the requester’s library PRISM ILL Review file; the orders will no longer be stored and transferred just once a day.

Also related to PRISM ILL: Custom Holdings is a new feature that is now available. By using this feature, libraries are able to customize a locations record by defining one or more sets of lending partners that will serve as online filters. Questions and answers on setting up custom holdings are available via the OCLC PRISM “News” command and also in OCLC’s Technical Bulletin, no. 208.

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Also from OCLC is word that their new OCLC WebZ Server allows World Wide Web users to query Z39.50 databases using the same Web browsers they use to view other Internet resources. WebZ is an enhanced HTTP server from the SiteSearch family of products. WWW browsers, like NCSA Mosaic and Netscape, can query Z39.50 databases with the full details of the users’ sessions being retained.

New developments from systems vendors include: Ameritech’s Window’s based publishing tool for the Internet, NetPublisher, has been named Editor’s Choice by PC Magazine. NetPublisher can be used to deliver all types of information including text, image, audio, video and multimedia on the local network or via the Internet. Patrons can easily access these files by using a World Wide Web client (such as Netscape), Gopher or Z39.50 client. Southern Methodist University (SMU) staff are using 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. WWW users can access a demo of NetPublisher via: http://netpub.notis.com.

SIRSI Corp. tells us that Unicorn/STILAS Version 7.1 has been released. Version 7.1 introduces graphical user interfaces (GUI) for Microsoft, Windows, Macintosh, and the World Wide Web. Features were upgraded for the OPAC Manager, online record review, diacritics, bound-with cataloging, USMARC holdings, new search options, National Library of Medicine MeSH Thesaurus, and sorting.

Data Trek, Inc. introduced NetPAC, and easy-to-use, Z39.50 client interface for access to any Z39.50 compliant database made available over the Internet. NetPAC allows users to search, retrieve and view data online or off-line. The user-friendly, point-and-click graphical interface of NetPAC allows patrons to use both easy and advanced search-term construction.

Information Access Company announced a major expansion of the InfoTrac 2000 database licensing program with InfoTrac SearchBank. This service incorporates popular reference databases from leading electronic publishers along with the entire family of InfoTrac databases into one network-accessible source. In addition to offering a full range of databases, InfoTrac SearchBank features full service document delivery, a common user interface across all databases, Z39.50 compatibility, and 24-hour access.

ISI (Institute for Scientific Information) and Lexmark International announced a cooperative arrangement in the development of ISI’s Electronic Library Project. In support of this project, Lexmark will make available an Optra L Laser printer at each pilot site for the duration of this innovative project. ISI’s Electronic Library Project was announced in August 1994; initial testing of the prototype began August 1995. This project will provide direct desktop access of tables of contents, bibliographic data, and abstracts for approximately 1,330 scholarly journals, with the addition of the full images of those journals for which publishers have agreed to allow electronic storage and delivery. High quality printing is imperative when dealing with the level of detail in the illustrations, graphs and halftones that are part of this literature. As part of this project, IBM Global Network will provide dedicated T1 lines between the six North American pilot sites and ISI’s central server for the delivery of data. IBM Global Network is exploring the technical options for the installation of dedicated lines for ISI’s two European Pilot Sites.