Doc Acquis: Have You Heard?

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A column reporting on news and developments relating to acquisitions and document delivery ...

Doc Aquis: Have You Heard?

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W

t thought it was time to once again send some “Have You Heard”’s your way. We’ve received many announcements that we would like to share with you.

Have You Heard that ...

Lots of libraries seem to be purchasing new systems these days. The University of California, Santa Barbara has selected DRA; Northwestern and Villanova have signed with Endeavor; San Francisco State University and California State University Long Beach have joined the CNULink Consortium which uses INNOPAC “In-Reach” software from Innovative Interfaces, Inc.; Rutgers University and the US Federal Courts have selected SIRSI’s UNICORN system; Berkeley College (New Jersey) and the US Department of State FSI/Library contracted for installation of The Library Corporation’s (TLC’s) Library Solution; the Parliament of Catalonia (Barcelona, Spain) Library and The National Archives and Records Administration have chosen VTLs systems.

In a related note, CISTI (Ottawa, Canada) North America’s largest collection of scientific, technological and medical documents, has migrated to INNOPAC Millennium to provide a worldwide document delivery service.

Academic Press has announced plans to broaden its online delivery activity by partnering with the OCLC FirstSearch Electronic Collections Online service. The Academic Press International Digital Electronic Access Library has been making its 175 journals available in electronic form since January 1996 to many library consortia around the world. These journals will be combined with the Electronic Collections Online to offer users more than 1,100 electronic journals from 23 publishers.

We’re all glad to know that EBSCO Subscription Services is well ahead of schedule on solving its version of the “Year 2000 Problem.” According to a September press release, EBSCO’s core systems became compliant four weeks ahead of schedule, and the remainder of EBSCO Industries is scheduled to become Y2K compliant by May 1, 1998. The company examined more than 2 million lines of code and identified more than 3,000 programs containing thousands of lines of code that would be affected by Y2K.

Mississippi’s library consortia, Magnolia (love that name!), has unanimously chosen EBSCO’s online service EBSCOnet to provide the state’s public libraries, school, college and universities with online access to a comprehensive collection of reference databases consisting of periodicals and other published information.

We can’t wait to see EBSCO’s upcoming subscription management service, EBSCO Online! EBSCO promises “simplified management of online journals” and “convenient access for library patrons.” They advise us to keep watching their Web site http://www.ebsco.com/bookpage1.asp for the release date.

SIRSI Corporation (Unicorn and STILAS systems) and EBSCO have collaborated to create an X12 claims interface, which allows libraries to claim journal issues by sending a file to EBSCO via Internet file transfer protocol (FTP). The interface will allow Unicorn and STILAS users to batch transmit claims using new software from SIRSI. The interface is written in the SISAC-approved X12 format for claims, and neither EDI translation software nor a value-added network is necessary for the process.

In September, Follett Software Company announced the development of its first Web OPAC software, WebCollection Plus, with a targeted release date of January 1998. Follett says that the product will offer some features that aren’t available in similar products, such as an events viewing capability.

For users of its Corporate Desktop Library<sup>TM</sup>, Collectanea has announced the launching of a more powerful and expanded version, Version 3.1, which offers corporate endusers expanded content and new capabilities. These new features include profiling tools, a “relation builder” and two alternate methods of conducting article searches. Approximately 300 abstracted titles have been added to the Articles database, which brings that total to nearly 4,000 sources. For more information, visit the Collectanea Web site at http://www.collectanea.com.

In November The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) announced the formation of ISI Alerting Services, which will deliver profile-based and table-of-contents alerting services to your desktop. The ISI Alerting Services includes JournalTracker<sup>®</sup>, CorporateAlert<sup>®</sup>, and PersonalAlert<sup>®</sup>. For more information, visit the ISI Web site at http://www.insinet.com.

In December, ISI announced linking partnerships with several publishers. The links will allow joint subscribers to link bibliographic information from ISI’s Web of Science with publishers’ fulltext content. Publishers include Springer-Verlag, American Institute of Physics (AIP), and Stockton Press. ISI and Springer-Verlag will also explore use of the Digital Object Identifier (DOI), a unique identification for specific units of digital content such as journal articles, book chapters, etc.

SIRSI Corporation has announced that the Unicorn Library Management System’s next major release, “Unicorn98,” is scheduled for February 1998. The release will incorporate WorkFlow, a new Windows95/NT-based interface that enables librarians to perform complex library tasks quickly and efficiently. WorkFlow uses icons to guide users graphically through each library task and provides “wizards” to combine steps and lead users to the fastest completion of each process. SIRSI developed WorkFlow over the past two years in collaboration with Stanford University and Carnegie Mellon University libraries.

The Library Corporation (TLC) announced in August that it was the first company to deliver a full, working set of version 2 ISO/Ill protocol messages for interlibrary loan. TLC communicated an ILL Request to The National Library of Canada in Ottawa using version 2 of the international ISO 10161 message. Both messages were relayed by the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) using TLC’s Library Request software.

In December UMI introduced color to its online information system, ProQuest Direct. Color fulltext and graphics are initially available for a select number of journals, including Science, The New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, and Brain. More titles will be added in 1998. The initial titles were selected to support the introduction of UMI’s medical database, ProQuest Medical Library. ProQuest Direct 1.6 offers other new features including advanced search options, new navigation buttons, and the ability to e-mail retrieved articles.

More from UMI ... They’ve reached an agreement with the National Library of Canada giving UMI rights to publish print and microform editions of doctoral dissertations and masters theses written at universities throughout Canada. The agreement gives UMI potential rights to publish electronic editions as well. Good news for the researchers!

Medical libraries will be interested to hear that WLN now offers collection analysis using NLM classification. A group of medical librarians in the Seattle/Pacific Northwest area has prepared an enhancement to WLN’s Conspecus software, producing the first collection analysis tool specifically for medical libraries using the conspectus methodology.

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