



Library Systems

An innovative overview of library automation

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RFID technology may see a breakthrough

RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology is appealing because of its potential to provide faster charge and discharge and improved library security as compared with electromagnetic strips and conventional RF tags. It also allows for fast, efficient electronic inventory of materials on the shelves. But the cost of the RFID tags, \$0.85 to \$1 each, has discouraged many libraries from using them. At seven or more times the cost of the magnetic strips used in most anti-theft systems, the cost of protecting a collection can be astronomical with RFID tags.

Despite the high cost of the RFID tags, more than 50 libraries have signed with Checkpoint and 3M, the two major vendors of RFID technology in the library marketplace, since the first library purchased the technology in 1998.

A new development this past year is paper-based RFID tags. Developed by Motorola and being marketed by Dai Nippon Printing Co. of Japan, the technology—named BiStatix—uses silicon-based ink to print a barcode on paper, rather than the far more

costly chips with metal coils and resonant capacitors used in the tags manufactured for Checkpoint and 3M. Unlike traditional barcodes, which are optically scanned, the paper RFID tag can be read and modified through a wireless interface. The price of the barcodes will depend on the quantity manufactured, but Dai Nippon claims the price should not exceed \$0.10, even in small quantities.

Given the potential competitive threat posed by paper RFID tags, and a significant increase in the use of RFID in warehouses, a reduction in the price of chip-based RFID tags is likely. Industry sources predict a reduction to \$0.50 in the next year and a further reduction to \$0.25 within two or three years. The displacement of chip-based RFID tags by paper-based is not assured as prices come down.

For a more detailed description of RFID technology, see Boss, Richard W., "Security Technology for Libraries: Policy Concerns and a Survey of Available Products," *Library Technology Reports*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (May-June 1999), pp. 321-27. ■

Health-related sites pose problems

A new RAND study undertaken for the American Medical Association says that most health-related sites require at least a high school reading level, but half of all Americans read at an eighth-grade level or below. Further, answers to important health questions are often incomplete or difficult to find. Users have only one chance in five of finding relevant information on the first page of results using any of the major search engines. The study underscores the need for librarians to assist users in finding and using information on the Web. ■

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Startup pursues network access via power lines

Amperion, a start-up that plans to provide the hardware and software for sending data over power lines, has obtained funding from American Electric Power, Cisco Systems, and Redleaf Group, a venture capital firm.

Its product concept is based on the fact that data and electricity can be sent over the same wires. A product introduction is planned for mid-2002. ■

APPEALS COURT RULING LOOMS OVER WINDOWS XP

Despite a June 27 decision by the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that Judge Jackson's decision to break up Microsoft was inappropriate, its conclusion—that the company is a monopoly and has used its monopoly position to stifle competition—looms over Microsoft's Windows XP operating system.

One of the major elements in Judge Jackson's finding of fact was that the bundling of Internet Explorer into the Windows operating system was an abuse of monopolistic power. He rejected Microsoft's argument that a technology company should be unrestricted in its attempt to innovate. The Court of Appeals decision not only accepted Jackson's finding that Microsoft had abused its monopoly, but went on to say: "Judicial deference to product innovation, however, does not mean that a monopolist's product design decisions are per se lawful." It concluded that product-tying is illegal only if the possible harm to competition outweighs the benefits to consumers. The record before the Court suggested that there had been measurable harm to Netscape that exceeded the benefits to consumers.

Even before the matter is resolved by a lower court judge other than Judge Jackson, Microsoft is once again bundling a large number of features common to other vendors' products into its latest operating system. When Windows XP is released Oct. 25, it will include Hailstorm, a bundle of 14 Web services, including:

- myProfile, information such as names, nicknames, special dates, and pictures that can be used for online identification;
- myAddress, a listing of a user's electronic and geographic addresses;
- myCalendar, an online calendar and time and task management;
- myFavoriteWebSites, bookmarks for favorite sites;
- my Documents, a Web-based filing cabinet for documents;
- myApplicationsSettings, user preferences and settings for software applications;
- myWallet, records of receipts and payments;
- myInbox, a central depository for e-mail and voice mail;
- myUsage, usage reports for services;
- myLocation, the identification of the user's geographic location and what

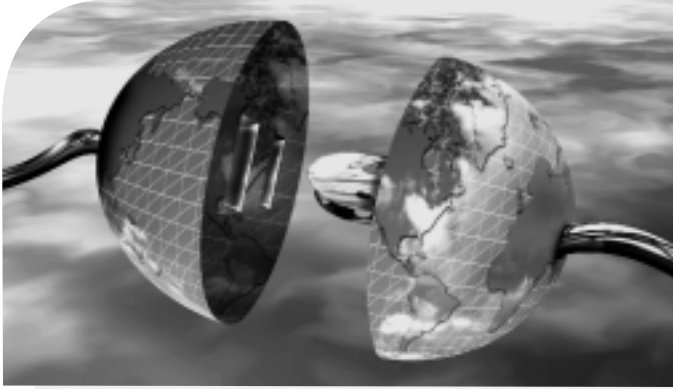
devices are being used so that services can be tailored to the devices;

- myContacts, an electronic address book;
- myDevices, a summary of properties and settings of the devices used; and
- my Notifications, alerts for special events.

If tying Internet Explorer to the Windows operating system led to a major lawsuit, tying nearly half all the available types of Internet services to the operating system may trigger a storm of litigation by competitors, if not by the U.S. Department of Justice.

If Microsoft is forced to redesign XP, either before or after its scheduled release, it will affect the implementation of the new operating system. The wise course of action: continue use of the existing operating system(s) until such time as the status of Windows XP is clarified.

For libraries that do decide to proceed with the implementation of Windows XP, they should note that XP requires more resources than previous versions. Microsoft recommends a Pentium III with at least 128 MB of RAM. *See late-breaking trial update on page 7.* ■



EOS sold by Dawson Holdings

To redirect its focus on its European operations, Dawson Holdings PLC has sold its interest in EOS International to its original founder Scot Cheatham. Tony Saadat, formerly with SydneyPlus, has taken an equity interest and will join the company as an executive.

The major decision made within the first month after the sale has been a reallocation of resources to increase funding for research and development.

Contact: EOS International,
5838 Edison Place, Carlsbad, CA 92008-6596
tel.: 800-876-5484
Web: www.eosintl.com

Insignia enters U.S. market

Insignia Software of Edmonton, Canada, has entered the U.S. market with an integrated library system for the school library market. The young company has 12 Canadian clients, including six school districts. It has made four

sales in the United States, including the Salem Keizer Public School District of Oregon, a district with 63 schools.

The Insignia Library System is a complete turnkey package, including hardware. It offers acquisitions, serials control, cataloging (with authority control), circulation, and Web-based patron access catalog modules and is MARC 21, Z39.50, and TCP/IP compliant.

The operating system for the server is Windows 95/98/2000 or NT 4.0 Server—the last recommended by the vendor. The client operating system is Windows 95/98/2000 or NT 4.0 Workstation.

Contact: Insignia Software
10123 99th St., #1520
Edmonton, AB, Canada T5J 3H1
tel.: 877-780-7769
Web: www.insigniasoftware.com

Innovative signs 33 in first six months of 2001

Innovative Interfaces has signed 33 new-name customers in the first six months of 2001, including eight customers outside North America. Among the major clients are the University of North Carolina, Northeastern University Libraries, National Library of South Africa, Bibliotheque de la Sorbonne, Karlstad University, University of Ottawa, Marmot Library Network, and Universidad de Cordoba.

Contact: Innovative Interfaces, Inc.
5850 Shellmound Way
Emeryville CA 94608
tel.: 800-444-2344
Web: www.iii.com

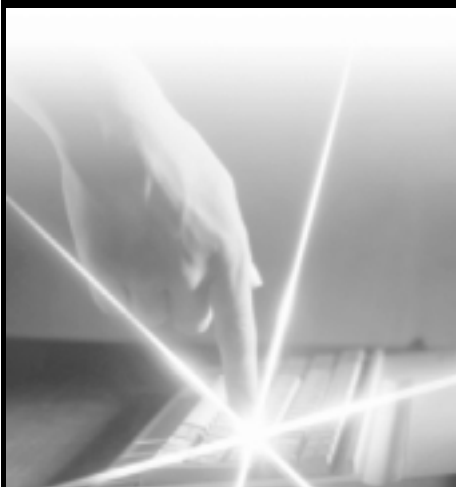
ORACLE abandons new pricing policy

Oracle has abandoned its two-year-old pricing policy for its popular database management system, one which based the license fee on the speed of system processors. With the introduction of Oracle9i, the price for

the Standard Edition will be \$15,000 per CPU and for the Enterprise Edition \$40,000 per CPU. These prices are comparable with those charged by IBM for DB2 but still more than double those charged by Microsoft for

SQL Server. Nevertheless, the average reduction of 30% in pricing is expected to strengthen Oracle's grip on a 33.8% share of the database software market, versus IBM's 30.1% and Microsoft's 14.9%. ■

NEW PRODUCTS AND UPGRAD



Endeavor announces LinkFinderPlus

Endeavor Information Systems has introduced an open URL tool that permits linking of all library resources regardless of the software or information vendor and across all platforms. The software, which is scheduled to be released in early 2002, will have 400 sources for abstracts, full-text files, links to Internet search engines, links to book-

sellors, and links to review information. An ongoing update service will be part of the standard maintenance contract.

Contact: Endeavor Information Systems

2200 E. Devon Ave., #382
Des Plaines, IL 60018-4505
tel.: 800-762-6300
Web: www.endinfosys.com

CASPR releases LibraryCom Version 3.2

CASPR Library Systems has released LibraryCom Version 3.2 with URL cataloging support and a new MARC cataloging service. The new release makes possible the cataloging of Web sites using the standard 856 USMARC tags. The MARC cataloging service lets customers search and download records from a MARC database with more than 2 million records.

LibraryCom is an integrated library system accessible via the Web. Users can simply access www.librarycom.com,

register, create a library, and start cataloging. The records can be downloaded or retained on the system to support the circulation and patron access catalog modules of LibraryCom. Pricing is based on the amount of storage used and the enhanced services requested.

Contact: CASPR Library Systems
tel.: 800-852-2777
Web: www.caspr.com

Amigos launches distance learning program

Amigos Library Services has launched a distance learning program featuring self-paced, Web-based instruction via the Internet. Four programs are currently available:

- "Beyond Books Part I: MARC for Sound Recordings";
- "Beyond Books Part II: MARC for Video Recordings";
- "OCLC Union List Fundamentals: An Online Introduction"; and



GEAC announces fourth quarter and year-end

Geac Computer Corp. Ltd. has announced results for the quarter and fiscal year ending April 30, 2001. The company realized a net loss of \$29.5 million for the quarter and a net loss of \$255.8 million for the fiscal year.

Despite the losses, the picture brightened in the fourth quarter as the quarterly loss

was only 11.5% of the annual loss. Further, the company managed to significantly reduce bank indebtedness.

Geac has sold its banking systems business, reduced its staff size from 5,150 to 3,800 people, and has claimed a number of intangible assets. Management appears to be optimistic the company

ES

- "Preservation Basics: An Introduction to Preservation Issues and Practices."

Contact: Amigos Library Services
tel.: 800-843-8482
Web: www.amigos.org

Gaylord includes MSNBC updates on Polaris

Gaylord Information Services has signed an agreement with MSNBC to deliver news headlines and article abstracts to users of its Polaris PowerPAC. The news headlines will be updated several times per day. The list of news links will change automatically to reflect a patron's requested subject following a search.

Contact: Gaylord Information Systems
P.O. Box 4901
Syracuse, NY 13221-4901
tel.: 800-272-3414
Web: www.gis.gaylord.com

losses

will return to profitability within the next year.

Contact: Geac Computer Corp. Ltd.
9 Technology Drive,
Westborough, MA 01581
tel.: 800-825-2574
Web: www.library.geac.com

CONGRESS SYMPATHETIC TO NICHOLSON BAKER?

Members of Congress not only meet with constituents and lobbyists, they also meet and talk with a variety of other people, including librarians. Several members of Congress and several librarians recently had an animated discussion at a Washington, D.C.-area cocktail party about librarians' dislike of paper. Nicholson Baker's recently published diatribe against librarians entitled *Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper* is being taken seriously on the Hill.

Baker contends librarians are obsessed with technology. In his opinion, the Library of Congress, together with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Mellon Foundation, have been responsible for the greatest government-led destruction of books since Henry VIII sacked England's monasteries. He says the destruction began with the extensive microfilming in the mid-1950s when librarians sliced apart printed volumes with electronic guillotines so the books could be photographed rapidly and without a gutter shadow between facing pages. When librarians found microfilm an unsatisfactory technology, they turned to digitization.

Baker says printed materials are not deteriorating as rapidly and as seriously as librarians contend and that digitized documents may be far more difficult to preserve than paper ones because hardware needs to be replaced and software programs are continually altered.

Baker would have libraries keep everything, arguing that librarians should be keepers of books, not selectors. As to space, he says librarians should just acquire more of it. Were the members of Congress who expressed sympathy for Baker's view prepared to spend billions of dollars a year to build storage space for rapidly growing collections? In a word—no.

Librarians need to do a better job describing their role as information specialists who value not only content, but also different media, especially print. Although a library may not be able to retain every printed work it has ever purchased, librarians should assure patrons that through interlibrary loan the library can obtain almost every printed work except the most valuable items kept in rare books departments. Many librarians—perhaps not as many as should—check for holdings in other libraries before withdrawing the last copy of a title.

Digitization can be used to preserve information without discarding all copies of the print, and it can make information available to far more users than ever would have had access to the print versions. ■

TLC

TLC celebrates 400th installation

TLC realized its 400th installation of its Library.Solution product in May, less than four years after the product was introduced. No other vendor has achieved that number of installations in so short a time. Most of the installations are small, keeping TLC far from being a market leader in revenues. Last year's purchase of CARL is intended to give the company a presence at the high end of the market, and future product development may help TLC fill in the middle part of the market.

Contact: TLC (The Library Corp.)
Research Park
Inwood, WV 25428-9733
tel.: 800-624-0559
Web: www.tlcdelivers.com

SIRSI

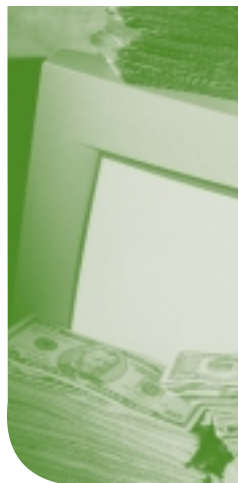
SIRSI's iBistro sales top 100

More than 100 academic, public, and special libraries have purchased iBistro, a product that enables library users to view enriched content for library holdings (tables of contents, reviews, cover images, and so on), create personal accounts, browse cataloged Web sites, and view e-Books and other electronic information from a single user interface. Although several vendors offer similar products, none has been as successful as iBistro.

Contact: Sirsi Corp.
101 Washington St., SE
Huntsville, AL 35801-4827
tel.: 256-704-7000
Web: www.sirsi.com

IBM CRAMS 9.2 MILLION PIXELS ONTO 22-INCH LCD SCREEN

IBM has introduced the highest-resolution flat-panel monitor ever produced, a 22-inch screen that shows 12 times more detail than any other monitor available, with 9.2 million pixels. Named the T220, the monitor has a list price of \$22,000.



Toshiba has already challenged IBM with a model named the QUXGA. It is capable of displaying 7.7 million pixels and is priced at \$3,000. IBM is expected to dramatically drop its price.

Although \$3,000 may be more than most libraries are prepared to pay for a monitor, the dramatic improvement in resolution achieved by both vendors suggests that mass production of high-resolution monitors is in the offing. In only a year or two, high-resolution monitors such as these may drop to \$1,500 in price. At that point they will be a must purchase for any library with an imaging program. ■

Auto-Graphics pushes Maxcess ASP service

Auto-Graphics, which purchased Maxcess in January, has shifted the emphasis from selling systems to offering ASP (Application Services Provider) service. Libraries will be able to access the Maxcess software over the Internet just as they can access other Auto-Graphics services.

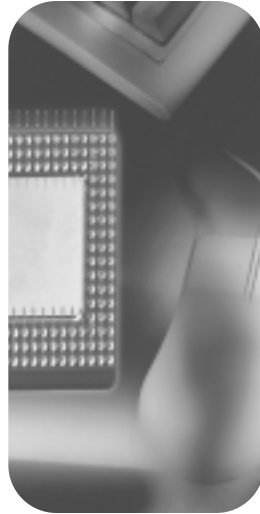
Auto-Graphics says many libraries will be interested in reducing software and hardware acquisition costs, paying only for the actual use of the service.

Auto-Graphics is not putting all its eggs into one basket, though. It is also offering a PC-based version for libraries that want to purchase a system. It will offer it as a replacement option for libraries currently using the A-G Slims software that has been marketed for the past several years.

Contact: Auto-Graphics
Web: www.auto-graphics.com

MICROSOFT responds to higher court findings

In a reversal of its earlier position that Internet Explorer (IE) cannot be unbundled from its operating systems, Microsoft announced on July 10th that PC manufacturers and end users will be able to uninstall IE in Windows XP. Microsoft now controls 80 percent of the browser market, so the unbundling is a mild response to the Court of Appeals' acceptance of a lower court's finding that Microsoft abused its monopoly position. More significant than the announcement about IE is the company's admission that users will not be able to uninstall several other products to be bundled with Windows XP. ■



HP PLANS EXIT FROM PA-RISC TECHNOLOGY

Hewlett-Packard, a popular choice for automated library system servers, has announced its decision to pull the plug on its PA-RISC line of computers after 20 years of building its business around that technology. The company is one of the first companies to abandon RISC technology, a technology pioneered by IBM.

HP has decided to build its future servers on Intel's 64-bit Itanium chip. Although some other server manufacturers will offer Itanium as an option, HP is the only vendor to rely exclusively on it. HP plans to offer consulting services and migration incentives to customers with RISC platforms. ■

FIBER and the FUTURE of COPPER

For the last five years or so Category 5 UTP copper cable has been the choice for most organizations' networks because it can support 10, 100, and 1,000 Mbps (also designated gigabit), depending on the network hardware and software selected. Although few organizations need 1,000 Mbps today, an increasing number are looking ahead to when they might. What they are learning is that copper segments can be no more than 330 feet in length as compared with 900 feet for fiber-optic cable. When fiber optic was substantially more expensive than copper, that was not an issue, but now that the price for fiber has come down dramatically, the costs of three times as much network hardware and software required for copper are sobering.

Until recently, copper also was easier to install, but the evolution of fiber from a fragile and inflexible medium to one with great tensile strength has made pulling fiber cables around corners and terminating them easier. Copper at 10 or 100 Mbps is more forgiving of a poor installation than fiber, but at 1,000 Mbps copper requires more attention to detail in installation than fiber.

Given all these factors, the time has come for libraries to consider a mix of cabling: fiber wherever 1,000 Mbps may be needed in the next few years, continued use of copper to the desktop where it already exists, and fiber to the desktop for new cabling whenever the cost is comparable with copper.

The scales will increasingly tilt toward fiber, but the general consensus in the industry is that the installed base of Category 5 copper will continue to be usable for years to come for all except 1,000 Mbps, a bandwidth far more common in network backbones than to the desktop. ■

Lexis-Nexis broadens content

Lexis-Nexis has announced that it has added *The New York Observer*, *Salon.com*, and *Access to Presidential Studies* to its service. The *New York Observer* is a tipster sheet with inside stories about New York politics, business, and media; *Salon.com* is an online magazine featuring interviews with literary, film, and political figures; and *Access to Presidential Studies* is an online research aid for those seeking historical information about U.S. presidents.

Contact: Lexis-Nexis
tel.: 937-865-7942
Web: www.lexis-nexis.com

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