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Contact: Sandi Moran
(703) 709-3000 x137

Apex ePublishing to Kick-off Content Search in Booth 624 at ACRL Conference

Distinguished Panel to Award Excellence and Innovation
During First Content Search

HERNDON, VIRGINIA, April 3, 2003—Apex ePublishing has organized a search to recognize and digitize the *best collections of content not yet available electronically* in the fields of Science/Technology and Humanities/Social Sciences. The initiative is called *Content Star Search*.

To that end, Apex is soliciting academic librarians to submit ideas for important digital collections to be drawn from their own institutions' libraries or archives, and Apex will present awards to the institutions that submit the top three ideas. The first place collection will be eligible to receive a free conversion pilot ($10,000 value), and two honorable mentions will receive start-up grants.

A distinguished panel of industry experts has been assembled to review the *Content Star Search* submissions. The selected panelists have collectively made significant contributions to the innovation, accessibility, and preservation of electronic text in the academic, humanities, and library communities. The panelists will be using the following unique and pioneering projects, which have already been digitized, as the benchmark from which they will evaluate the *Content Star Search* submissions.

- An extensive collection of scientific research records, which resided within court proceedings, and
- The correspondence collections of major 18th century figures, which are being converted to full-text XML and will be inter-operable with one another, even though they reside at multiple institutions.

At the onset, these high-caliber projects were confronted by funding challenges in their quest to become digitized, but have since fully utilized the electronic medium. *Content Star Search* seeks to uncover similar collections in an effort to bring them to life electronically. Other evaluation criteria include the ability to serve as a model for similar collections, value to the community, user friendliness of potential interfaces, overall accessibility, and innovation and creativity.

Joel Poznansky, President of Apex ePublishing, commented, "There are many outstanding collections in the library community that deserve recognition as well as the opportunity to be digitized, thus potentially allowing access to a wider audience. *Content Star Search* was created to achieve both objectives."

Content Star Search will kick-off at the Association of College and Research Libraries 11th Annual Conference being held April 10 -13 in Charlotte, NC. For more information and to obtain an entry form, visit Apex in booth 624, or contact Inna Katsev at (703) 709-3000 ext. 138 or via e-mail at ikatsev@apexinc.com.

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About Apex ePublishing

Apex ePublishing, a subsidiary of Apex Data Services, Inc., is the world's premier provider in the conversion of electronic and paper text into structured, electronic data for academic institutions, and the e-publishing market. Not only have we set the world standard for accuracy for over a decade, but we have also developed the industry's most sophisticated production management and control system. Established in 1988, Apex ePublishing is a rapidly growing, debt-free, and employee owned company. Find us on the Internet at http://www.apexinc.com.