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Knowledge Solutions, Global Reach.

## **National Library of Australia Chooses Apex Publishing to Support Major Newspaper Digitisation Program**

**CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA – March 1, 2007** - The National Library of Australia announces that it has entered into a contract with Apex Publishing to support a major newspaper digitisation program which will commence later this year.

The Library will use Apex's services to build a database covering the period 1803 to 1954 using one major newspaper from each state and territory.

The Library expects to offer, from early 2008, a new online service to enable full text searching of these newspapers and viewing of the content free of charge.

The Library will initially populate this service with the 19<sup>th</sup> century portions of newspapers such as the *Sydney Gazette*, *The Argus*, *The Courier Mail* and other newspapers from Hobart, Adelaide, Perth and Darwin. The Library will then digitise the portions of these newspapers from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In building the database the Library is receiving strong support from the state libraries. Each library will ensure the availability of good quality microfilm versions of the relevant newspapers as source material for the digitisation process.

Apex will convert digital page images produced from microfilm into text-searchable files through the use of Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology and other processes including the "zoning" of the newspaper articles.

"The National Library sees this relationship with Apex Publishing as a major advance in our ability to digitise Australian text based collections, and to make them more visible and accessible," said the Library's Director-General, Jan Fullerton. "This relationship will allow the Library to move into the area of 'industrial scale' digitisation."

"Apex feels privileged to be working with the National Library of Australia on this important project. We see newspapers as the purest written commentary of our triumphs and struggles as people – the Rosetta Stones that illuminate cultures, promoting global understanding and peace. That is why digitizing them is important. This project advances Apex's Global Newspaper Initiative, by making available to a broad audience an accurate chronicle of Australian history and culture," said Apex's President, Shashikant Gupta.

### **About Apex Publishing**

Apex Publishing is a division of Apex CoVantage, a US provider of global Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO). To date, Apex Publishing has digitized millions of pages of newspapers from the 18th century to the 21st - more than any other

organization in the world. Apex has worked with libraries, universities and government at the state and national levels, and was selected in 2005 by the British Library to support the digitisation of a number of British newspapers. For more information on the Apex Global Newspaper Initiative, please visit ([www.apexcovantage.com/publishing\\_solutions/global\\_newspaper\\_initiative.aspx](http://www.apexcovantage.com/publishing_solutions/global_newspaper_initiative.aspx)).

**About the National Library of Australia**

The National Library of Australia has a mandate to maintain and develop a national collection of library material, to make that material available in the national interest, and to cooperate and provide other services in relation to library matters. The Library's major current objective is "to enhance learning and knowledge creation by further simplifying and integrating services that allow our users to find and get material, and by establishing new ways of collecting, sharing, recording, disseminating and preserving knowledge". The digitisation of Australian newspapers will support the needs of the public for improved access to information resources. For more information on the Library, please visit <http://www.nla.gov.au>

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