



Press Kit
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ProQuest Technology 2009

Helping libraries reach the end-user

ProQuest is playing a pivotal role in the evolution of search and discovery, enabling libraries of all sizes and configurations to deliver more compelling research services to their users. From a completely new platform to maximize the use and exploration of ProQuest content, to the groundbreaking Summon web-scale discovery service from business unit Serials Solutions, the ProQuest brand family is committed to supporting libraries with tools that secure their role at the core of research.

While the discovery tools and platforms cover a spectrum of needs and play into the research process in different ways, they're alike in a fundamental way: the roots of both the Summon service and the ProQuest platform are in extensive research into end-user search behavior.

The Summon service addresses a frustration that users expressed – the lack of a clear starting point to search the breadth of the library. Its single search box access to vast collections eliminates confusion and makes the library easier to use. The Summon service helps libraries, including those who may or may not be ProQuest customers, make *all* of their content -- physical and electronic -- more discoverable. It aims to expose more of the library's collection to the user and therefore, drive more value from the breadth of library collections.

The ProQuest platform is about maximizing the use and exploration of content. Our research showed that users want to interact with content, move freely without being encumbered by silos of information. The new ProQuest platform will do exactly that: it will encourage new ways of interacting with content, allowing researchers to dig deeper, analyze more precisely and organize data more efficiently. It consolidates all ProQuest content, allowing researchers to find and easily explore all the varied information and services that ProQuest offers. It's being built from the ground up, plucking the best of previous platforms and combining it with all new tools that address the needs users are expressing. The new ProQuest platform creates an all-new search environment designed to the specific needs of researchers, making the library an ever-more essential place to start.



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ProQuest's All-New Platform Will Redefine Search Experience

Single-point access to ProQuest® content will enable users to discover more, dig deeper, and organize data in new ways

July 6, 2009 (Ann Arbor, Mich.) –ProQuest is leveraging its extensive research of end-users, librarians and faculty search behaviors to drive the creation of an all-new platform that will redefine the search experience for library users around the world. Available in 2010, the new platform will transform the company's highly-regarded platforms into one consolidated search experience, providing access to a broad range of resources, content, and services that only ProQuest offers. The ProQuest®, CSA Illumina®, and selected Chadwyck-Healey™ products will be available on the new platform at launch, and all ProQuest products will migrate to the new platform over time.

“We’re creating the best search experience possible for users, while simplifying administration of e-resources for librarians” said Marty Kahn, CEO of ProQuest. “ProQuest has assembled the right assets and fostered strategic partnerships over the years that will allow us to offer not just the right content, but also the best technology. We’re taking extreme care to combine the two in ways that are meaningful to all types of library users.”

The new platform is being built from the ground up based on years of extensive student observations, surveys of more than 6,000 end users, focus groups, and individual interviews, along with ongoing interactions with users, librarians and faculty. Its core is a single platform for all content, with a single content store, single search engine, and consolidated user experience. Users will experience deeper discovery of information, and will then be able to organize and use their findings more efficiently and with greater precision.

ProQuest's Chief Information Officer Bipin Patel says that the company is focused on purpose-driven design. “Customer and user needs are driving the new platform requirements and design. Each element of the new platform has been identified as necessary to meet the needs of today's users - and tomorrow's – and we're engaging users and librarians throughout the development cycle.”

ProQuest has worked with librarians and end users to get feedback on storyboards, mock-ups, and prototypes. The company is testing new solutions piece by piece – both with its internal R&D and User Design teams using detailed user personas and through routine, rigorous user feedback.

The new platform will facilitate and simplify access to the broad range of authoritative resources, content, and services that only ProQuest offers. Users will be able to quickly and easily narrow in on the answers they need by searching across all content and a broad range of complementary sources, including leading journals, periodicals, news content, rare and archival information, dissertations, research reports, ebooks, and multimedia. Powerful navigation tools will surface the most relevant content of any format in context to help guide users in their search. Sophisticated post-search manipulation features will make it faster and easier to zero in on the most relevant results. For libraries, the consolidated platform will offer new administrative and reporting tools that provide greater flexibility in customizing the experience to their institution's needs.

ProQuest has long been known for listening to the research community and that legacy continues with the new platform. All of the features, functionality and design of the new platform are a direct outgrowth of extensive outreach to and feedback from libraries, faculty and end users. The platform will be a living service, evolving over time to meet changing user needs. To learn more about the new platform visit www.proquest.com/go/yourpath.

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ProQuest Grows Renowned News Program Delivering Vital Historical Context to Users

Detroit Free Press, Jewish Newspapers, and enhanced New York Times Index Coming to ProQuest Historical Newspapers

July 10, 2009 (Ann Arbor, Mich.) –ProQuest continues to expand its renowned news program with several significant additions to ProQuest Historical Newspapers. *Historical Jewish Newspapers* will provide a new resource for exploring and understanding the Jewish experience through the lens of American Jewish newspapers. Later this year the *Detroit Free Press* will be added to *ProQuest Historical Newspapers* allowing users to follow the history of Detroit from a small frontier town to its growth to the one of the largest cities in the U.S in the early 20th century. And, we’ve added enhanced functionality to the *Historical New York Times with Index*. Available this fall, users will have the ability to browse Index topics to find exactly what they are looking for even more quickly.

“Illuminating vital pieces of information and delivering it in a way that makes research easier and more widely accessible than ever is fundamental to our mission,” said Rod Gauvin, senior vice president of publishing for ProQuest. “Newspapers allow us to become eyewitnesses to history – immersing us in the sights and sounds of momentous occasions and everyday life. We’re pleased to make additions like these to our news program to help users experience history from new perspectives and discover information more easily than ever before.”

Historical Jewish Newspapers will provide users with access to esteemed Jewish newspapers from across the U.S. Newspapers such as The Jewish Advocate (1905-1990) from Boston, The Jewish Exponent (1887-1990) from Philadelphia, and other key papers allow users to explore the experience of Jews in America, including coverage of the rise of Zionism, reaction to US policy toward Israel, participation in labor movements and civil rights, as well as community news of value to genealogists.

Founded six years before Michigan statehood, the *Detroit Free Press* is recognized as the leading newspaper in the region. The newspaper rose to prominence as Detroit became a major trading post and industrial hub. From advocating statehood, to walking the beat along the waterfront, to producing the first newspaper supplement for women Historical Detroit Free Press (1831-1922) chronicles the history of Detroit.

To accelerate search and discover information even more effectively, ProQuest has digitized *The New York Times Index* and integrated it with the historical *New York Times*. The enhanced release of the New York Times Index allows users to search in a new intuitive method through browsing by subject. Based upon the renowned New York Times print index, this robust subject search capability lets researchers drill through over 25 million New York Times articles to appropriate articles.

In ProQuest Historical Newspapers, researchers can browse full-text and full-image newspapers from significant U.S. and international titles, dating back to the 18th century. With continuous newspaper runs, scholars can read each digitized issue cover to cover, or narrow their search by specifying one of 20 different document types (articles, editorials, advertisements, obituaries, etc.), date, and author.

These newly added papers are cross-searchable with ProQuest Historical Newspapers, the world's largest digital newspaper archive, encompassing more than 22 million pages dating from 1764. A core research holding in major libraries around the world, it includes such prominent newspapers as The Guardian, The Observer, The Scotsman, The Irish Times, The New York Times, New York Tribune, The Wall Street Journal, The Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post, Atlanta Constitution, Boston Globe, Hartford Courant, The Chicago Defender, New York Amsterdam News, Baltimore Afro American, Pittsburgh Courier, Los Angeles Sentinel, Atlanta Daily World, St. Louis Post-Dispatch and The Baltimore Sun.

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ProQuest Announces ProQuest® African American Heritage
Groundbreaking new resource exclusively devoted to African American genealogy

July 10, 2009 (Ann Arbor, Mich.) – ProQuest announces the first digital library resource dedicated to the unique needs of African American genealogical research. Available fall 2009, ProQuest® African American Heritage is a groundbreaking new resource that provides key genealogical and historical records specific to tracing the lives of African Americans. The resource goes further to set itself apart by including a critical set of research and social networking tools that address the common genealogy need for research guidance, personal assistance, and mentoring.

Genealogical research for African Americans can be more challenging than other genealogical inquiries as a consequence of slavery and the changing legal status of African Americans. Records made prior to the Civil Rights era were segregated and are difficult to find, and oral histories passed down from generation to generation may be incomplete or inaccurate. Chris Cowan, vice president of publishing for ProQuest, notes that “With limited local resources and no dedicated electronic library resources for African American family history research, libraries have found it challenging to meet the unique needs of their users. Now, ProQuest African American Heritage helps to fill that gap by bringing together genealogical and historical resources critical to researching African American heritage back into the 18th century and helps people put together missing pieces of their past.”

ProQuest African American Heritage is designed to provide a comprehensive and useful guide for researchers by presenting relevant and unique content as well as providing insights and suggestions on how to further their searching. It contains information vital to African American genealogical research, including U.S. federal census, freedman and slave records, birth, marriage, and death records, church records, court and legal records, genealogies and family histories.

In addition, ProQuest African American Heritage incorporates social networking, reference books, and other digital how-to tools from two key partners: AfriGeneas and Genealogical Publishing Company. AfriGeneas, the oldest and best-known African American family history site, provides social networking to connect people to a community of researchers, expert advice, moderated forums, chats, mailing lists, surname registry, and more devoted to African American genealogy and history. For over 50 years, Genealogical Publishing Company has been publishing authoritative genealogical and family history books that are widely respected by amateur and professional genealogy researchers alike. ProQuest African American Heritage will contain several selected titles from Genealogical Publishing Company, including, including a special online edition of *Black Genesis*. *Black Genesis* is an exhaustive guide that makes locating resources pertaining to slaves and free blacks easier. Written by Dr. James M. Rose and Dr. Alice Eichholz, this essential reference work features an extensive compilation of African American resources for all fifty states, Canada and the West Indies. With these resources, ProQuest African American Heritage provides connections to important assistance and mentoring from experienced African-American genealogists, which greatly increases the researchers' success.

ProQuest African American Heritage is the latest addition to the company's suite of genealogy resources, which include Heritage Quest® Online, Ancestry® Library Edition, Historic Map Works Library Edition™, ProQuest® Historical Newspapers, ProQuest® Obituaries, Digital Sanborn® Maps, UMI® Heritage Quest® in microform, and UMI® Genealogy and Local History in microform.

For more information visit <http://www.proquest.com/en-US/promos/aah/aah.shtml>

*Ancestry® is the registered mark of The Generations Network, Inc., Historic Map Works™ is the trademark of Historic Map Works Online, LLC, and Sanborn® is the registered mark of The Sanborn Map Company, Inc.

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New SIRS® Issues Researcher Helps Users Discover Essential Answers to Questions on Global Social Issues

July 10, 2009 (Ann Arbor, Mich.) –For over 35 years, ProQuest’s SIRS® resources have included the best, most relevant information to encourage dialogue and critical thinking about global and societal issues – making it the leader in social issues research. Today, ProQuest is introducing SIRS® Issues Researcher, an editorially-structured resource designed to explore the context, perspectives, and essential questions under debate on hundreds of pro/con issues.

SIRS Issues Researcher draws together illuminating content selected from more than 1,700 global full-text and multimedia sources. This provides users with the tools to establish fundamental understanding and frame informed viewpoints. High quality graphics and websites, and videos also promote visual and media literacy.

“The study of social issues—whether for research papers, debate, presentations, or other projects—is centrally important across curricula in secondary schools, community colleges, and undergraduate survey courses,” said Barb Beach, vice president of publishing for ProQuest. “And the importance grows as more educators place emphasis on multicultural and global awareness, critical thinking skills, and digital information literacy. ProQuest is committed to providing resources like SIRS Issues Researcher that directly support all of these needs.”

SIRS Issues Researcher is specifically designed to promote meaningful “21st-century learning” by engaging students in current events and important social issues. Key features include:

- “Leading Issues,” which displays information critical to understanding the issues most studied and debated.
- “Pro/Con” section, which structures the content for more than 300 issues, helping students to see the varying points-of-view from multiple sources.
- “Essential Questions,” which support critical thinking by helping students identify the core issues under debate.

- Opinion polls, based on actual student input, which bring forward issues in context and place students into the debate.

The interface of SIRS Issues Researcher includes textual and visual searches that help users choose a topic, see relationships across ideas, and understand the context for the issues. Users can connect to online tools for social bookmarking, note organization, article translation, and start-to-finish research help.

SIRS Issues Researcher is an “actively managed” social issues database. ProQuest editors scaffold the information to illustrate the range and breadth of topics, review and bring forward key content, and maintain the entries for timeliness and relevance. Entries contain both current coverage and historical perspective, and display the cross-curricular connections across topics. Editorial oversight also helps students’ select appropriate topics and provides educators with a resource matched to national and state learning standards.

For more information on the new SIRS Issues Researcher visit
<http://www.proquestk12.com/landings/issues.shtml>

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About ProQuest

ProQuest creates specialized information resources and technologies that propel successful research, discovery, and lifelong learning. A global leader in serving libraries of all types, ProQuest offers the expertise of such respected brands as CSA™, UMI®, Chadwyck-Healey™, SIRS®, and eLibrary®. With Serials Solutions®, Ulrich's™, RefWorks®, COS™, Dialog® and now Bowker® part of the ProQuest brand family, the company supports the breadth of the information community with innovative discovery solutions that power the business of books and the best in research experience.

More than a content provider or aggregator, ProQuest is an information partner, creating indispensable research solutions that connect people and information. Through innovative, user-centered discovery technology, ProQuest offers billions of pages of global content that includes historical newspapers, dissertations, and uniquely relevant resources for researchers of any age and sophistication—including content not likely to be digitized by others. Inspired by its customers and their end users, ProQuest is working toward a future that blends information accessibility with community to further enhance learning and encourage lifelong enrichment.

For more information, visit www.proquest.com or the ProQuest parent company website, www.cambridgeinformationgroup.com.