AccuNet/AP Photo Archive

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Pricing

Yearly subscription fees run $995 for one computer workstation, $1,295 for five computer workstations, or $5,600/site license with unlimited workstation use. Library district pricing is based upon a user pool formula. Although district pricing is variable, substantial price reductions can be obtained. A library district with 20 sites might expect to pay as little as $600/library with unrestricted access. IP filtering is used to control access. Institutions receive per student price reductions as FTE increases.

The AccuNet/AP Photo Archive is designed for schools, colleges and universities. As such, it is unavailable to individual subscribers unless they are willing to pay the regular price of $995. For additional pricing information, phone (888) 438-9847 or e-mail sales@accuwx.com.

Searchability:

The search engine is extremely effective because it allows many points of access into the collection. Searching options include natural language, Boolean, and images to over 1,000 internet sites, including AOL.com and MSNBC.com.

During the past 30 years, AccuWeather has developed a widespread and rapid communication and distribution network, supplying weather information and images to over 1,000 internet sites, including AOL.com and MSN.com. On radio, TV, and in newspapers, five-day forecasts reach 180 million view-

Review Score

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Composite: 4/4

Content: 4/4

The AccuNet/AP Photo Archive is the most extensive collection of its kind available online.

Much of the Associated Press's historical collection is still unavailable, with retro-version expected to take several more years. All current photos (one year and less) are now available.

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Reasonably priced annual subscriptions for institutional subscribers. There are no special pricing plans for individuals or low-volume users.

Institutional (based on FTE), site, district (user pools based on the population of the service area). No special reduced cost contract options are available to individual subscribers. Although no concrete pricing formula is currently in place, consortia may negotiate with the vendor using district contracts as a model.

Advisor Reviews

The Charleston Advisor / April 2000

Reader Opinion

Web edition only.

http://www.charlestonco.com

Selected Users

The STAT-USA/Internet Top 20

1. University of Washington
2. Rochester Institute of Technology
3. Michigan State University
4. San Francisco State University
5. Duke University
6. University of Pittsburgh
7. University of Southern California
8. University of North Carolina
9. University of Virginia
10. Columbia University
11. New York Institute of Technology
12. James Madison University
13. University of Connecticut
14. California State University-Fullerton
15. New York University
16. University of Maine
17. San Diego State University
18. Virginia Tech University
19. California State University-Chico
20. University of Tennessee

From The Newsletter (Winter 1998)

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Reviewer Composite Score: HHHH

1/2

http://ap.accuwx.com

2/23/00

AccuNet / AP Photo Archive

Reviewed by: Larry R. Sheret, MA (L.L.S.) (Program Coordinator, Learning Resource Center, Central Arizona College, Aravaipa Campus, 80/440 E. Aravaipa Road, Winkelman, AZ 85292) <Larry_Sheret@python.cac.az.az>

Date of Review: 2/23/00

http://ap.accuweather.com

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Larry Sheret

Larry Sheret is the Program Coordinator of the Learning Resource Center at Central Arizona College, Aravaipa Campus. Mr. Sheret earned his MA from the University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science in 1996.

Dealing with the scourge of Copyright

Sheret boasts that every AP Photo Archive user has complete access to the 50 million images in the AP archive, dating back to the oldest available photo. However, a hotlink below each title appears. However, a hotlink below each title appears, clicking on an appropriate hotlink next to each title causes a full caption to pop-up, or a photo to load. With each thumbnail is the “light box” hotlink which allows photos to be saved in a folder for personal and downloading at a later time. Information about each photo is instantly available, including where it was shot, its creation date, submission date, photographer, caption writer, and title. The size of the photo is also shown. Using the thumbnail, expected download time are given in the download section. The fastest broadband internet connection speeds are used, so expected download speeds are limited only at the user end. Images may be down- loaded and then e-mailed as attachments to third parties. Students may copy photos into papers. Users may be permitted to copy multiple copies for students. It is also possible for students and instructors to copy images onto overhead transpar- encies, or to use them in PowerPoint presentations.

Critical Evaluation

For a generation that has come to expect immediate gratification, AccuNet/ AP Photo Archive will define “slow” when it comes to downloading images. Each day, including those photos that undergo retro-conversion and inclusion into the historical collection of the AccuNet/AP Photo Archive. These date back to the oldest available photo. The site of Abraham Lincoln was cataloged. Of the 50 million images in the AP archive, about 750,000 are now available from AccuNet/AP Photo Archive.

This service was created for the pub- lic, students and educators, and is only available to schools, public and aca- demic libraries. Images are free, and they may be downloaded, copied, or saved to a disk or harddrive. Although AccuNet/AIDS agreements are written into the sub- scription contracts, ILL is essentially permanently permitted. The images may be downloaded and then e-mailed as attachments to third parties. Students may copy photos into papers. Users may be permitted to copy multiple copies for students. It is also possible for students and instructors to copy images onto overhead transpar- encies, or to use them in PowerPoint presentations.

Lousie Treff-Gangler

Louise Treff-Gangler has been the Government Publications Librarian at Aurora Library for the past 14 years and formerly in the same capacity at the Loveland Public Library. She is an avid reader of the Ameri- can Library Association Government Documents Round Table.

Many of the statistical files must be downloaded and used in a spreadsheet. One will find it convenient to print at the beginning of collecting the data but, if all, or if they do, the tables are too wide to print, even in landscape format, or else the tables are not compatible with this software. STAT-USA recommends downloading these tables. Some “self-ex-planatory” domestic product by state, were difficult to ex- ecute and require a fairly high level of computer expertise. Since some users only want to print out some informa- tion quickly, an alternative print for- mat and updating monthly. Many documents are in PDF/Format, such as Survey of Current Business articles, re- quisition, Adobe Acrobat to display and print.

Another suggestion would be to link to the homepages of the various main agencies that supply the STAT-USA Inter- net data. Links to the Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, would provide more comprehensive and historical coverage to selected topical areas.

The wealth of data offered in STAT- USA is an excellent and useful resource for a library. As an electronic database, it possesses all the desirable features of a valuable resource for the business community and for college students and researchers. In addition, end users and proxy servers can access this database. Data from the Interna- tional Trade Library can be printed and used in a spreadsheet. Using a simple search, the new trend for the Country Commer- cial Guide is to produce them in Word or spreadsheet software on reference or spreadsheet software on reference or heavy use public workstations. Many libraries have made the database available to users at their own desks. Free access via a password at one PC is available to U.S. govern- ment depository libraries, although these libraries would prefer an increase in the number of free simultaneous users due to the thousands of docu- ments available, many of which are not available in print. A public- posted daily on STAT-USA Internet and is more comprehensive and historical coverage to selected topical areas.

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Usability is overall quite good, but mi- nor improvements in viewable and printable documents would be helpful in this area. The data is easily readable, but it is not very user friendly. The more advanced options are best for the more sophisticated users who may not be as familiar with the software. The more advanced options are best for the more sophisticated users who may not be as familiar with the software. The more advanced options are best for the more sophisticated users who may not be as familiar with the software. Many libraries have made the data- base available to users at their own desks. Free access via a password at one PC is available to U.S. govern- ment depository libraries, although these libraries would prefer an increase in the number of free simultaneous users due to the thousands of docu- ments available, many of which are not available in print. A public- posted daily on STAT-USA Internet and is more comprehensive and historical coverage to selected topical areas.

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Janet Lee

Janet Lee has been the Technical Services Librarian at Regis University for the past 17 years. She has worked in the library for the past 18 years including school, community college, public and special libraries. She is currently co-editor of Colorado Libraries and has been an active member of the Colorado Library Association.

now incorporated into STAT-USA Internet. For extensive statistical tables and reports the data user should search for the “State of the Nation Library” which is linked at the bottom of the page.

“GLOBUS & NTDB” offers access to thousands of reports and statistical publications related to foreign trade. The National Trade Data Bank CD-ROM, begun in 1996, was the predecessor of STAT-USA Internet, providing market research reports on individual products in various countries, country background information, import/export statistics, and other valuable information for prospective importers and exporters in the U.S. It has been an indispensable tool for businesses and marketing students.

The NTDB online makes this information available much more quickly and conveniently. Country Commercial Guides, Market Research Reports, International Market Insights, import and export statistics, as well as over 75 other various reports and programs are included in the NTDB.

Many reports from the NTDB are in such demand, such as Industry Sector Analysis, International Market Insights, and Best Market Reports, that they are available individually as online publications for non-subscribers for a fee through the “Newstand” which is linked from the homepage. GLOBUS adds daily trade leads from the Trade Opportunity Programs (TOPS) and other U.S. government agencies, the longstanding Commerce Business Daily, and foreign exchange rates updated daily.

The International Trade Library contains over 40,000 additional documents related to international trade which are searched separately. This library includes the excellent Country Commercial Guides, especially valuable now that the Army Arsenals Handbook, later titled Country Studies, will no longer be published. It also includes many titles long familiar to librarians in print, e.g. Background Notes, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, Key Officers of Foreign Countries and the Global Trade, selected Army Area Handbooks (now Country Studies), Export Administration Regulations, as well as many other titles.

In searching either the fulltext of NTDB or the International Trade Library the results can be extremely long due to the large number of documents in the database.

Critical Evaluation

The content and reach of NTDB, GLOBUS, and the International Trade Library are difficult to distinguish. “Search the Entire NTDB” is under “Other” on the menu, but “Search the International Trade Library” is at the bottom of the GLOBUS & NTDB page under the question, “Can’t find what you’re looking for?” In fact, one could assume that the NTDB documents are included in the International Trade Library, especially since the STAT-USA Internet homepage says “...our international trade library: the National Trade Data Bank.” But NTDB documents are not included. A simple search on “Senegal” in each database results in vastly different results: 188 hits in the International Trade Library and 1,946 hits in the NTDB. Searching the entire NTDB server produces no more marketing research reports, human rights reports, agricultural reports and the World Fact Book.

An advanced search option to allow field searching of document titles as well as searching based on overall dollars, contains 500 currency dollars for a product even though they often have the least ability to pay.

Pricing Models

Cons: Small or consortially unaffiliated libraries possess valid library cards by username and password. Libraries will be addressed to The Associated Press at (212) 621-1930. When it comes to providing access to special collections, many of these sites are unmatched. But there are drawbacks to these sites. Primarily, they tend to have low resolution documents such as cumbersonly, thumbnails are rare, formatting is inconsistent, coverage is spotty, and extensive searching may be necessary for a photo on a particular subject. AccuNet/AP Photo Archive has none of these drawbacks. For a photo of the least cluttered and easy-to-use sites that I have come across. Although 75% of AP’s current news archive is dropped from online access after one year, most librarians will see

Pricing Models continued from page 4

Cons: Small or consortially unaffiliated libraries may not have images of every print on file for the purchase of electronic resources. Such common good fortune should be addressed to The Associated Press at (212) 621-1930. Authentication

The primary form of authentication is IP filtering. Libraries that provide patrons with remote online access to databases may authenticate patrons who are granting and possessing valid usernames and password. Libraries will be confronted if an unusually high volume of hits is generated during the course of the contract period.

Selected References

None, other than several very short reviews of very limited scope.

Cons: Smaller libraries are able to acquire access to many more resources at the lowest possible level. Vendors can base their pricing on overall dollars, contain 500 currency dollars for a product even though they often have the least ability to pay.

State-Wide or Group Discounts - Consortia and state-wide purchasing organizations are becoming a major trend in the purchase of electronic resources.

Pros: Smaller libraries are able to acquire access to many more resources at the lowest possible level. Vendors can base their pricing on overall dollars, contain 500 currency dollars for a product even though they often have the least ability to pay.

The vendor will not release a list of its subscribers, but I have personally seen links to the site at Penn State and the Museum of Art. When it comes to providing access to special collections, many of these sites are unmatched. But there are drawbacks to these sites. Primarily, they tend to have low resolution documents such as cumbersonly, thumbnails are rare, formatting is inconsistent, coverage is spotty, and extensive searching may be necessary for a photo on a particular subject. AccuNet/AP Photo Archive has none of these drawbacks. For a photo of the least cluttered and easy-to-use sites that I have come across. Although 75% of AP’s current news archive is dropped from online access after one year, most librarians will see

this as a plus. What is eliminated is the cross and duplicate images. After all, how many patrons does one put out by STAT-USA, an agency in the Economics and Statistics Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce? It advertises itself as one-stop shopping for the finest business, economic, and trade information produced by the federal government. Members of the business community as well as researchers who need valuable information for informed decision making and in competing in the global marketplace.

STAT-USA Internet is divided into two parts, “State of the Nation” and “GLOBUS & NTDB.” “State of the Nation” contains current and historical economic and financial data for the U.S. only. “GLOBUS & NTDB” is the foreign trade, export, and import statistics database, filled with country information, market research reports, import and export statistics, and other related information. Documentation on searching, general information, program descriptions, and other such information is found under the “Samples” link at the top of either opening page.

“General Information” contains instructions on downloading and printing. “Program Descriptions” are provided for all five databases, such as “Market Research Reports.” This section also includes the detailed Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, which provides the product codes used in the import/export statistics and other publications within the database.

“State of the Nation” includes such data as general economic indicators (consumer price index, gross domestic product), statistics on housing and construction (housing starts, building permits), employment and unemployment, manufacturing and retail sales; bankings and interest rates; and economic policy documents, such as the “Beige Book” and “Humphrey Hawkins Testimony.” Reports of the bond rates, treasury rates, and financial indicators are posted daily with their anticipated release time (Eastern Time). Recent press releases, and current ver- seconds of the top 50 releases are linked from the front page. Data formerly in the Department of Commerce’s Economic Bulletin Board, decommissioned in October 1999, is available to the public.