

Ultra-fast and highly flexible Library Archive System

RANDOM HOUSE CHOOSE SOUTRON FOR LIBRARY ARCHIVE SOLUTION



The Random House Group, UK Archives & Library Division worked in close partnership with Soutron to deliver an ultra-fast and highly flexible Library Archive System, capable of handling almost 350,000 records in less than 1 second. At the core of the Library Archive System (christened BARD - Bibliographic Archive Random House Database) is a special combination of database and text retrieval software.

With some 8,000 new publications a year and more than 100 publishing companies spanning some 13 countries, Random House is one of the world's largest book publishing groups. It brings out books by some of the most famous writers in the world including John Grisham, Ruth Rendell, Peter Ackroyd, Toni Morrison, Danielle Steel and John Updike. No other publishing group features so many Nobel Prize winners or popular successes.

Random House's UK Archive and Library division is based at their offices in Rushden, Northamptonshire and handles all the UK based archives for Random House and Transworld. Their original library system was based on two systems, residing on different servers and running on different operating systems. The first of these was a solution containing 102,000 records of items in the library, together with an estimated 144,000 copy records and associated loans information. The second was a system containing approximately 68,000 records of Random House publications downloaded from their internal distribution system. These systems weren't linked in any way.

SOLUTION

An information-rich organisation, Random House required a global solution that offered fast and accurate search and retrieval options whilst allowing maximum user access irrespective of geographical location. Following a consultation, evaluation and analysis period, Random House opted for a solution

that could be deployed via a web browser, allowing access over the internet, intranet or an extranet.

Soutron was chosen to create a fast and powerful search and retrieval system with a very specific search front end.

"Soutron delivered an extremely efficient solution"

Jean Rose,
Library Manager

RESULTS

Jean Rose, Random House Library Manager at the time explains "Soutron delivered an extremely efficient solution which incorporates all the information held on the two separate systems and allows us to add approximately three thousand new records a month, yet still be easy to search with a fast response time".

- All archive and library information on one system
- Fast and complex searching
- Flexible reporting
- Reduction in duplicated data entry
- More streamlined cataloguing
- Library collection available to other users
- Easily supportable by the IT Department

Graham Beastall, Managing Director at Soutron commented "This has been a very exciting development for us both as the Library Archive System truly demonstrates the capability of Soutron to build and deliver scalable solutions for archives. It offers integrated library system functionality such as automatic cross-referencing and the automated background modification of records. Items can be loaned, renewed, reserved and returned quite simply with searching facilities available over the Internet, intranet or an extranet".