



flax at the core of NLA's Clipsearch

The Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA) controls access to a vast database of clippings from over 100 national and regional UK media outlets. Originally, access was only available to clippings agencies, then librarians and journalists were included under a subscription model. The service proved enormously popular so the NLA decided to open it to a wider public under a pay-as-you-go model.

Flax is already used at the foundation of the NLA's ClipShare service and Lemur has now developed the extension of this product for the wider audience. The new system, Clipsearch, offers the only comprehensive single source of major UK newspapers in digital format available to the general public. With highly sophisticated Flax search functionality, Clipsearch holds 143 UK newspaper

titles and over 11 million articles within the database and is rapidly expanding by 480,000 per month. ClipSearch is currently used by over 25,000 users in over 5000 organisations.

The NLA had two key aims; to build its publishers revenue and to save them money. Achieving these required a capable and rich back-end search engine. The users required different access rights to be considered resulting in an extensive number of rules that had to be enforced for every single user.

Matt Groshong, Operations Director at NLA, said, "Lemur was chosen over its competitors for a number of reasons. It came with a very competitive price as well as giving us a real personal touch... We wanted a company relatively flexible and responsive to our needs; Lemur ticked all of these boxes."

Groshong's initial opinion of the open source search model has changed. "I spent over 10 years at Microsoft, so my blood and bones told me I shouldn't back open source – but since the NLA adopted this



model, I have certainly embraced the idea that open source is a great way of developing fast, effective and thorough collaboration of information. I would recommend taking an approach like Lemur's, where the company has taken an open source core and developed a real world solution and code which you can apply to specific business scenarios or models."

Recent Project Wins

Lemur and Ibuildings, the PHP web development company, partnered for a project at the start of 2009 for a major UK TV channel. The work is of strategic importance to the client, and the exact nature of the project confidential. What we can say is that the information retrieval skills of Lemur and PHP skills of Ibuildings were utilised to the maximum, as the project demanded an extremely fast turnaround and deep knowledge of natural language search and sentiment analysis within a complex application framework. The customer was delighted with the results, and Ibuildings and Lemur proved that their engineers work well as a team, meeting customer needs. Ibuildings employs more than 40 PHP software engineers in the UK and The Netherlands.

Other new projects wins for Lemur include software development for Canadian company MediaMiser, and for document management company OneIs. MediaMiser's software has become one of Canada's leading media analysis software solutions for managing, searching, and analysing media coverage. OneIs provides small organisations with a secure online space to store information, collaborate on documents and share contacts.

flax.co.uk makeover

Take a look at the new Flax website: www.flax.co.uk. As well as detailing some of the main features of Flax and a few customers who are already benefiting from these, there is also a new video showing Flax in action.

We have also started a blog to discuss topics including search technology, new developments in the world of search, open source projects in general and anything else we think you might find interesting: www.flax.co.uk/blog

About Lemur

Lemur is highly active in the information retrieval market with international clients from sectors including academia, public relations, e-commerce, government and private businesses.

Lemur's Flax™ project delivers a cutting-edge enterprise search solution, using the power of open source software to drive down costs and provide world beating search performance with no software licence fees.

Lemur's Bamboo™ software is a collaborative, web-enabled, multimedia database system used by academics and researchers.

Lemur also provides general expertise and development in technologies such as Java, C++, Linux, Windows and XML.