

Publisher Unlocks Nearly a Century of Scientific Discoveries

INNODATA ISOGEN CASE STUDY

Forgotten Studies from Golden Age of Research Provide the Background to Address Modern Medical and Social Issues

CHALLENGE

A leading publisher of applied life science research started digitizing its records in the early 1980s. However, the huge volumes of important research papers, books, papers and other literature written from 1908 to 1983 existed only in deteriorating paper documents. This period saw researchers produce an enormous number of discoveries that form the foundation for today's fields of medicine, environment, crops, development and economics. Yet many important discoveries from this period have been forgotten in library archives, while modern researchers have even recreated past data, unaware that their work duplicated previous studies until they presented their work for public consumption.

This was a challenge that needed to be addressed. The publisher owned the rights to more than four million records from 9,000 peer-reviewed journals, along with 2,500 books, conference proceedings and other papers. While some of these records were supported by well-written abstracts, many others contained none at all. Even worse, many important papers were overlooked because their abstracts had not been translated into English. The publisher recognized that they needed to make these historic records readily available, so that they could be researched along with post-1983 papers to help scientists address pressing modern issues such as biotechnology, germ warfare, food production and global warming.

SOLUTION

Simply keeping up with the task of abstracting and publishing current papers was enough to keep staff busy around the clock. Moreover, hiring personnel to work on 75 years of historic records was neither cost- nor time-effective. The best option was in outsourcing the work to an experienced content services provider with an offshore staff that could also write abstracts in foreign languages. To that end, the publisher turned to Innodata Isogen to abstract and digitize the backlog because of its extensive experience translating and indexing large and complex sets of data.



CHALLENGE

Digitizing nearly 100 years of scientific articles so researchers worldwide can quickly scan abstracts for background data relevant to current problems

SOLUTION

Team up with Innodata Isogen to convert dusty documents into data files tagged with key words and translated into English

IMPACT

Scientists research fresh solutions instead of duplicating old discoveries and the publisher gains new customers for its abstract publishing services

