



More than 257,000 NHS Professionals to Benefit From Access to Online Information Resources

Easy Access Anywhere, Anytime Helps Doctors, Researchers and Nurses Continue to Keep Up-To-Date with Latest Medical Advancements

Bath, 24th September 2007 – Eduserv, the not-for-profit IT services group, today announces that it has signed a five year agreement with the NHS National Library for Health (NLH) for the provision of single sign-on access to a series of online information resources via Eduserv’s widely-used access and identity management service, Athens. The NLH is part of the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement.

More than 257,000 NHS staff and placement students in England will be able to access full-text journals, key clinical databases and eBooks on the NLH portal (<http://www.library.nhs.uk>), as well as benefit from free publishing in leading open access journals. These resources are critical in helping doctors, nurses, students, health managers and other members of the NHS to keep informed of, and share with their peers, the latest developments in their fields.

In addition to NLH’s resources, NHS workers¹ across England are able to access web services such as journals and databases that their own NHS trust subscribes to, as well as local and national news items. The NLH portal uses Athens data to identify users’ organisational affiliations, enabling searches across all of the resources that they are entitled to access. Athens also allows the portal to save the searches and settings of individual users, so every time a user logs on to the portal with their Athens username and password, the portal customises itself according to their preferences. This helps NHS staff to find the information they need as quickly as possible.

Ian McKinnell, technical manager at National Library for Health, comments: “To enable the better use of evidence and enable improvements in safer health care, it is vital that NHS managers and clinicians have ready and reliable access to knowledge. Establishing a knowledge sign-on is a vital foundation to this objective.”

¹ For details of eligibility criteria for access to Athens protected resources, please see: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/corecontent/athens/eligibility>



“We are delighted to award this contract to Eduserv and look forward to building on the team’s expertise in the field of access and identity management and experience of working with both higher education and the NHS. NLH will be working with Eduserv and NLH partners in the National Programme for IT and Higher Education to ensure that NLH migrates to an open standards platform for access management, ensuring better interoperability between NHS clinical applications, knowledge resources and learning within HE.”

Ed Zedlewski, CIO and deputy CEO at Eduserv, adds: “Helping NHS professionals across England to access thousands of online resources at the click of a mouse is a demonstration of Eduserv’s charitable mission to use its technological expertise to support research and learning. We look forward to working with the NLH over the next five years to enhance the service further with wider interoperability and new functionality.”

In addition to NLH, over 2,000 organisations use Athens, enabling online access to a wide range of academic information resources for over 4 million people worldwide.

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Notes to Editors

About Eduserv

Eduserv is a **not-for-profit**, professional IT services group with the mission to realise the benefits of IT for learning and research at every level. Eduserv achieves its charitable mission through the provision of sustainable services. These include:

- Secure access to online resources (Athens and OpenAthens)
- Licence Negotiation & Management – (Chest)
- Managed web hosting
- Content management (CMS) and web development.

Trading surpluses are used to support the work across the education sector.

About NHS National Library for Health

The mission of the National Library for Health (NLH) is to help patients and professionals use best current knowledge in decision-making. The library consists of three main resources:

1. Firstly, there is the commitment of 1,275 librarians who know the local communities, and their needs and priorities. The plan is for all healthcare organisations to identify a board member to be Chief Knowledge Officer,



supported by a librarian acting as Knowledge Manager.

2. The second resource is the national digital knowledge base, a single source of knowledge catalogued, classified and organised so that it is not only easy to find but can be delivered through the media that are now available, for example digital laboratory reports, and e-prescriptions.

3. The third resource is the users, organised in communities of practice, which manage the National Specialist Libraries such as the National Library for Cancer or the National Library for Knowledge Management.

This National Library for Health has been created by bringing together a number of different resources, one of which was a digital resource called the National Library for Health Web Site. But NLH 2.0 is much more than that because it represents the collective knowledge and skill of those professionals whose commitment is to manage documents and knowledge to best effect.

For more information about Eduserv please visit www.eduserv.org.uk or contact:

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