
Press Release

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November 28, 1994

Auckland based text retrieval company Electronic Text Ltd today launched a new online service specialising in New Zealand news and information, including transcripts of what politicians say in parliamentary debates.

The Knowledge Basket, named after Te kete o te wananga of Maori mythology, is a full-text system on the Internet which will offer all the New Zealand news run by the national news agency, NZ Press Association, since December last year. Full transcripts of Hansard reports of Parliament and government regulations are also being made available to the public, as well as the full text of all currently in force legislation from 1854 on.

Electronic Text managing director, Dave Keet, said The Knowledge Basket supports either direct or dial up

access to the databases which are updated as new material is created. Users will be automatically alerted when items of interest to them appear, and additional searching abilities will be available in early 1995.

The supplier of the news service available from The Knowledge Basket, NZPA managing editor Peter O'Hara, said providing the news to an online service was a natural expansion of his agency's very successful Newstrack electronic news service.

'The ability to create a profile and have news of interest to you delivered to your desktop builds on our success to date in this market,' he said. The NZPA supplied news to all New Zealand's daily newspapers from its own resources, as well as an extensive array of international newswires, daily newspapers and

other bodies such as the producer boards and financial information services.

The supplier of statutes, Hansard and regulations to the database, GP Print Operations Manager, Chris Eales, said that moving to overnight updates was a 'quantum leap' in the level of service GP Print had been able to offer the legal profession and the general public.

Electronic Text Ltd has created over 30 databases for clients using Verity Inc's Topic Agent information retrieval software, Mr Keet said.

For further information:

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