

ZPORTAL wins award for best contribution to business information

Fretwell-Downing Informatics (FDI) recently announced that its ZPORTAL product has won first prize at this year's AEBIG Awards for the best contribution to business information. According to key judge, Olivia Freeman, the judges were looking for something '...a little bit different — with that extra edge.'

The Aslib Economic and Business Information Group (AEBIG) joined forces with business information magazine — *Managing Information* — to give an award to the best new, or significantly updated, electronic business information product. Nominations for the award were made by information professionals for products they considered to be extremely valuable in daily work. A panel of independent experienced business information managers decided the final winner. ZPORTAL was launched in December last year a couple of weeks before an extremely successful demonstration at the Online Information show 2001.

A web environment, ZPORTAL pushes the concept of cross-database searching by offering 'one search' access to internal and external resources, whilst also providing a choice of content delivery methods so taking the user from information discovery to content delivery within a single environment.

Rather than being tied into specific resources, ZPORTAL allows users the freedom to design the content of their portal to best suit their needs by including only the specific library catalogues, internal databases, intranet/internet web search engines, full-text databases and online services which best fit their requirements. ZPORTAL takes users beyond just references by presenting users with a choice of content delivery methods which include open URL linking to link direct to e-journal subscriptions and ILL/document delivery for physical item delivery.

This customisation of resources meant that ZPORTAL stood out over the competition. Freeman comments: 'It gives companies the opportunity to customise searching to their exact information requirements — allowing users to access information specific to them.'

Robin Murray, managing director of FDI, thanked AEBIG for this recognition and stated that: 'ZPORTAL has made many people's searches for information so much simpler and much quicker. It has developed a successful route through the information jungle and can save users precious time — it is the first step in a new era of information discovery and delivery.'

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