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Issue 43:: June 2007
www.vivaVIP.com



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Thoughts about SLA conference

In Scope

Merger mania

Insight

Strategy in the Middle East and Africa and
the Global Intranet Strategies Survey

Insider

Navigating a turbulent global landscape

Tap the Wire

Who uses the news and more highlights
on the industry

Focus On

Specialist Middle East products from ISI
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In Scope

To some, the Thomson-Reuters deal looks like a monopoly, but the partnership does have some advantages. Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation might form another massive merger; insight on the Dow Jones offer.

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Insight

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Insider

The global landscape of today is one of risks to countries, corporations and individuals. This means economic and business investment and development are also under threat, and Jill Fenton examines how much.

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Tap the Wire

Industry news, new products and product update:

Industry News:

Mega-corporation mergers; power news users; reader concerns about Factiva and Thomson; re-labelling ProQuest; Hoovers and First Research partner up; information professionals valued by organisations; Office of National Statistics on the move; City Business Library under threat; cash goes out of pocket; whistleblowers and wikis.

New Products:

BvDEP launches a Chinese FAME; Buyer's Guide to European financial data; new offerings from ResearchRecap; MI Analyst extracts meaning from market research reports; tapping technology trends; business intelligence on the financial IT marketplace; Emerald's titles on India and marketing.

Product Update:

Factiva adds multimedia; D&B users look forward to improved access to company documents; Experian revamps services for UK and US customers; Concordance integrates with other LexisNexis products.

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Focus On

Doing business in the Middle East presents challenges for Western workers. A look at two specialist Middle East products helps navigate this part of the world. Islamic Finance Information Service (IFIS) from ISI Emerging Markets tracks developments in Islamic finance, and Nooz.com, a specialist service that provides news, market research and business intelligence to potential investors.

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"Eastern Promise"
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Log In

By Pam Foster



Networking is all about people; it shouldn't be a numbers game. It's about reaffirming existing relationships and creating new ones with your target audience. This month's SLA conference, held in Denver, Colorado, provided a great venue for both. Firstly, it enabled the entire Free Pint Limited editorial team to get together, in person, for the first time – we're a geographically-challenged group – and we grabbed the opportunity to meet up and discuss future projects. Secondly, it offered the chance to meet up with *VIP's* subscribers, and I'd like to thank those of you who came along to our Meet the Editor and other social events; they provided us with an opportunity to both listen to your feedback and to thank you for your support. Thanks also to the vendors who let us share their stands for some of these events. Thirdly, it enabled me to go to around the exhibition and to attend the sessions requested by the FreePint/VIP community. Throughout this issue you'll find comments and news items picked up from the conference. A round up of the sessions, attended by myself and other members of the Free Pint Limited team, will be published in next month's issue of *VIP*.

Doing business with the Middle East brings its own special challenges. Islam permeates all levels of society and Sharia law deals with all aspects of day-to-day life, including business. This issue reviews two specialist Middle East products. The first investigates the *Islamic Finance Information Service (IFIS)* from ISI Emerging Markets. The *IFIS* service tracks news and developments in Islamic finance, including Sukuk issues, leading Islamic banks, career paths of Sharia scholars, etc. A second review looks at *Nooz.com*, a specialist service that provides news, market research and business intelligence to potential investors, companies and anyone considering doing business in the Middle East. A third item provides comment on products that are relevant and important to anyone with an interest in the region. If you know of any product that isn't included in this section then I urge you to please share your knowledge with your *VIP* colleagues by posting details at the *VIP Lounge*.

Additionally, there's also an article from Patrice Curtis, which focuses on providing resources to explore the strategic issues and armed conflict relations between the Middle East and Africa on the one hand, and international organisations, the US and European Union on the other.

Intranets have become essential tools in many organisations and it's interesting to hear about people's problems and successes associated with them. An *Insight* article, by Jane McConnell, provides highlights from the *Global Intranet Strategies Survey*, which included 101 organisations headquartered in Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. The results reveal some startling observations.

Finally, I'm just off to Greece for a two-week family holiday but I'll still be following the news – will Dow Jones cave in to Murdoch's offer? Will there be any more mergers like Thomson-Reuters? What an exciting sector we work in!

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