

Books Asia – implementing Nielsen BookNet EDI

Books Asia has supplied foreign-language media to Public Libraries since 1985. Initially offering Indic languages, their portfolio now includes over 20 languages including Chinese, Polish and mainstream European. Technology has always played a key role at Books Asia. EDI is fast becoming a mandatory requirement for Public Sector procurement – hence EDI became a priority on the Books Asia technology roadmap.



Shomi Haq is Books Asia's IT Project Manager and was tasked with implementing EDI as part of Books Asia's electronic trading development, and comments:

"Books Asia decided to implement EDI in 2011. The journey was to be a challenging one, with a complex scenario of two EDI standards, two MARC formats, five LMS vendors and a matrix of library requirements. One of the first steps was to ensure the infrastructure was in place. This is when we contacted Nielsen and subsequently made the decision to use Nielsen BookNet as a vehicle for exchanging EDI messages."

Although many libraries use DirectFTP, we found that the larger libraries using Capita (Talis) and Axiell systems, preferred to use Nielsen BookNet. From the onset, we worked closely with Gill Trenter, Technical Support Manager at Nielsen. Gill guided us through the process from start to finish - from obtaining our SAN through to delivering our first EDI messages to each library.

We have integrated the Nielsen BookNet Mailbox functionality into our IT system at Books Asia; the Mailbox commands are well documented and Nielsen's Technical Support was always available to answer queries and assist in the development process. We are grateful to Gill and the rest of the Nielsen BookNet team for all the support and advice we received during development.

We are now migrating a library each month and already have more than 30 public library authorities signed-up for Books Asia EDI. The Nielsen team played a big part in this success story."

To learn more about Books Asia's EDI Services, please visit:
www.booksasia.co.uk/edi.php



Books Asia
Foreign-languages for Public Libraries