



Case Study

NLA uses Flax Open Source Search Engine to build index of 5 years of UK newspaper articles

The Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA) is the latest organisation to install the Flax enterprise search system as part of a major online news development known as eClips.

eClips allows journalists online access to a searchable database of national and regional newspaper content in text and PDF format from a central resource, the first time direct access to articles from multiple titles in image form has been available. Five years of content from all the UK's major newspapers will be available and the Flax system provides publishers with the benefits of web based access technology for the first time. NLA is owned by publishers and it chose Flax for its exceptional text search power when providing access to content and its low cost of development.



The Flax technology, developed by Lemur, builds on established open source software. It incorporates a world-beating open source search core, used by organisations including the German newspaper Die Zeit and Cambridge City Council, with additional software allowing it to build indexes of hundreds of different kinds of files, emails and databases. Lemur has also developed several different types of front end so that Flax will fit seamlessly into a company's existing infrastructure.

Flax can build searchable indexes of millions of documents in common formats such as Microsoft Office, HTML and Adobe Acrobat (PDF), which can then be searched in milliseconds using a customisable interface to meet specific needs. Flax is cross-platform and provides highly accurate and relevant results.

Support for Flax is provided by Lemur Consulting; search engine specialists with a reputation for quality service and support. Lemur will customise, install and configure a Flax solution to meet your specific needs and will supply ongoing maintenance, software updates and support as required.



newspaper licensing agency
Respect for Copyright

Advantages of Open Source

'Open source is a development method for software that harnesses the power of distributed peer review and transparency of process. The promise of open source is better quality, higher reliability, more flexibility, lower cost, and an end to predatory vendor lock-in.'

Open Source Initiative

Flax is licensed under the open source GPL License. In summary, this means that free access to the source code of Flax is

made available, allowing anyone to create user-generated software content through incremental individual effort or through collaboration. This ensures the software is developing and improving all the time.

With no software license fees, open source solutions are highly cost-effective. Value for money, reliability and performance explain a Forrester survey of 500 business IT decision makers which found that 51% of firms, such as the NLA, are now using open source software in mission-critical applications.

Flax offers a high-performing, secure and stable search infrastructure with all the benefits of open source software, backed by expert support and maintenance. With no license fees payable, Flax is a highly cost-effective enterprise search solution.

About Lemur

Lemur is highly active in the information retrieval market with international clients from sectors including academia, public relations, e-commerce, government and private businesses.

Lemur's Flax™ project delivers a cutting-edge enterprise search solution, using the power of open source software to drive down costs and provide world beating search performance with no software licence fees.

Lemur's Bamboo™ software is a collaborative, web-enabled, multimedia database system used by academics and researchers.

Lemur also provides general expertise and development in technologies such as Java, C++, Linux, Windows and XML.