

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Harcourt announces formation of eLearning Group

Team will coordinate and support eLearning initiatives for leading K-12 publisher

Orlando, FL – Harcourt, Inc., a leading K-12 education company and a part of Reed Elsevier Group plc, announced today that it has reached another milestone in the delivery of its eLearning strategy through the recruitment of an eLearning team who will support development of new eLearning products and services across its businesses. Headed by Ann Foster, formerly eLearning Director of Reed Elsevier's UK-based educational publishing division, the eLearning Group comprises executives and technology professionals who will spearhead development in a number of areas.

The eLearning Group will help refine and articulate Harcourt's eLearning strategy, while facilitating development of eLearning products and services. Harcourt made eLearning a high priority in its developmental strategy in 2001 and took steps to invest in sector leading expertise in eLearning through its acquisition of Classroom Connect, its alliance with Riverdeep and its foundation of the eLearning Group which will be focused on keeping Harcourt a leader in this field. The team will provide technical expertise, research, and intelligence to Harcourt and its individual business units, including product development support and identification of potential partnerships and alliances. Harcourt's digital asset management team now also reports to the eLearning Group.

Three senior executives, reflecting a broad range of eLearning experience, report to Foster:

- Bruce Wilcox, Vice President e-Business, formerly of VIP Tone, a data integration company for the K-12 market, and a veteran of e-Chalk, Simon and Schuster, and Jostens Learning.
- Chris Jordan, Vice President eLearning Architecture, who has spent the last six years at Harcourt leading internet strategy and technical development.
- Joshua Marks, Senior Technologist, who has held senior development roles at ZapMe!, Ask Jeeves, and Knowledge Universe.

“The purpose of creating this cross-divisional group is to ensure maximum coordination of our investment in e-Learning products and services and to leverage Harcourt's overall scale and position in the education market,” said Foster. “Our job is to catalyze and support the creative and business talent at the Harcourt business units.”

“We are moving towards a world of integrated solutions and services,” said Harcourt CEO Tony Lucki. “It is important that the company is organized to meet these emerging

customer needs and has the right structure to nourish partnerships and alliances that will be essential for players in the education market of the future. The eLearning Group provides that structure, and the talented team Ann has assembled will be an invaluable asset for all of Harcourt.”

Among the eLearning Group’s responsibilities is coordination of Harcourt’s participation in the previously announced (October, 2001) alliance with Riverdeep Group plc to develop interactive online instructional content. The two companies are collaborating on the development of e-basal products to address the emerging market for electronically delivered interactive instructional content, combining Riverdeep’s industry leading on-line curriculum and technology with Harcourt’s leadership in K-12 basal publishing and distribution.

Foster’s team is also supporting Harcourt initiatives in the area of classroom-based assessment, including the introduction of Harcourt Interactive Technology’s iLearningOnline Interactive (iloli), a standards-based internet instructional assessment program for grades 1 through 12. In addition, the eLearning Group is coordinating the integration of premier professional development provider Classroom Connect, acquired by Harcourt last year, and leveraging of its on-line training expertise.

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About Harcourt

Harcourt, Inc. is a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners, and readers of all ages. The Harcourt companies are Harcourt School Publishers, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Harcourt Supplemental Publishers (including the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints), Harcourt Educational Measurement, The Psychological Corporation, Harcourt Interactive Technology, Classroom Connect, Harcourt Canada, Harcourt Religion Publishers, and Harcourt Trade Publishers. For further information, please visit <http://www.harcourt.com>.

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