

# Jones & Stokes

*New tools bring the future of library management to a top environmental consulting firm*



**Jones & Stokes**

Sharon Hoepker, Corporate Librarian at Jones & Stokes, has been ahead of the technological curve since the early 1990's, when she foresaw that information technology and library science were "on a collision course." She set out to make the most of this by learning all she could about the technology.

Jones & Stokes is a leading environmental planning and natural resources management consulting company. As Ms. Hoepker puts it, "As consultants, our product is information." The organizing and archiving of that information, maintaining a usable inventory of the company's products and intellectual property, is crucial for its continued productivity.

### The Search

When Ms. Hoepker came on board, one of her first projects was to acquire library automation software. Previous to this, the library's holdings had all been catalogued in an Access database which, though accessible on an Intranet, was not widely used. Ms. Hoepker's previous position had included spearheading a large software evaluation and acquisition project for the military, so she was comfortable evaluating the choices that would suit Jones & Stokes' particular requirements as well. She did a lot of research on the kind of system she was looking for, as she had always known she would be growing the electronic collection.

### Genie's Advantages

She liked the fact that Inmagic doesn't "modulize" its products. The other packages she looked at tended to price added features/ functionality in separate packages, leading to

price creep and more decisions when the functionality turns out to be needed. She also liked Genie's easy-to-use Web interface.

Inmagic, as the "middle of the road" candidate price-wise, provided all the functionality she needed without a large amount of costly bells and whistles that she wasn't going to use. The look, feel, and feature set stacked up well in her given budget range.

"I appreciated Inmagic's responsiveness, and the fact that they've been in business, working with librarians, for a long time. They're familiar with this industry and know what they're talking about."

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Corporate Librarian*

"Though *Genie* was a new product, I felt its serials management was strong- which is one of the harder problems to solve in this type of software. They're also looking to the future and thinking about what features will be coming out next."

### Setup and training

Jones & Stokes opted for remote installation of the *Genie* software. Their IT staff were able to deal well with it, and setup went smoothly.

"The training phase went really well. The fact that the person who came here had library experience, was key. Our styles meshed and she made great use of the training time to concentrate on what we needed most."

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### The Catalog Goes Digital

The Jones & Stokes library collection includes some 25,000 hardcopy items, chiefly an archive of all the reports generated by the firm over its 35-year history. This is used internally for information, and there are frequent requests for reprints by agencies and the public. They also maintain a library of topical hardcover books and scientific periodicals important to the industry, and now a growing digital collection of PDF versions of the company reports, on a document server.

The library is accessed by internal staff, most of whom are scientists and technical specialists. Remote users include the staff of 16 branch offices in the western U.S.

"The more appealing web interface enables us to take the collection and show its value to the company." Requests and library usage via the Web have been increasing since Genie's deployment, compared to paper and in-person loan requests.

### Looking to the future

Further equipping the office with new information tools, Sharon has lately been experimenting with WIKI software. By doing a search in Genie and copying the link to a shopping cart result, she has found she can generate a reading list for any topic and simply copy the link into the WIKI page. This can propagate information in a standard format with very little work, and then can provide a way of keeping track of frequently-requested materials and their usage statistics.

Other plans involve going on the road to the company's 16 branch offices, to add staff level of access to Genie in the firm's branch libraries there. Local staff will soon be able to manage their own labeling and check in/out.

Ms. Hoepker is looking to the future as usual, including making use of the new features and improvements in version 2 of Genie.

### About Inmagic

Inmagic, Inc. is the global leader in enterprise Research Asset Management. Inmagic's solutions are uniquely capable of organizing diverse sets of research materials and enabling our customers to gain extraordinary insights from them. Inmagic solutions are known for their flexibility, ease of use and deployment, and minimal need for information technology support. Because they are based on Microsoft® SQL Server™ and .NET technology that utilizes Web services, Inmagic applications can be integrated with and interoperate within an organization's overall information technology infrastructure.

For more information about Inmagic Genie, call 1-800-229-8398 (for international, 1-781-938-4444) or email [salesinfo@inmagic.com](mailto:salesinfo@inmagic.com).

# INMAGIC®

Inmagic, Inc.

200 Unicorn Park Drive  
Fourth Floor  
Woburn, MA 01801

Tel: 800-229-8398 | Fax: +1 781-938-4446  
Email: [salesinfo@inmagic.com](mailto:salesinfo@inmagic.com)  
[www.inmagic.com](http://www.inmagic.com)