

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **R.R. Bowker Acquired By Cambridge Information Group**

**New Providence, N.J. – September 5, 2001** – R.R. Bowker, a leading publisher of bibliographic information and one of the most venerable names in the publishing industry, has been acquired by Bethesda, Md.-based Cambridge Information Group, Inc. (CIG).

Specific terms of the sale were not disclosed, but the acquisition of Bowker from Reed Elsevier Inc. became official on August 31. As part of the acquisition, CIG is simultaneously selling a number of non-core directory products to Reading, Penn.-based Information Today, Inc., including *Literary Marketplace* and the *American Library Directory*.

CIG is a privately held company that is best known for owning Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, an international publisher of bibliographic databases and print journals that primarily serves research institutions. Bowker, which publishes such renowned titles as *Books In Print*<sup>®</sup> and *Ulrich's Periodical Directory*<sup>®</sup>, will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Cambridge Information Group. Included in the sale to CIG are the Bowker operations in the U.K. and Bowker's Australian-based database publishing company, D.W. Thorpe.

“This acquisition will allow us to fully deploy some of the exciting product development strategies we have been pursuing at Bowker over the last few years,” said Michael Cairns, the newly appointed general manager of R.R. Bowker. “Cambridge Information Group is an ideal partner for us because they bring to bear significant organizational resources and a deep understanding of the bibliographic publishing industry.”

According to Cairns, Bowker is enjoying a very strong year, largely due to a steady increase in online sales and significant growth in Bowker's CD-ROM business.

“R.R. Bowker has an extraordinary reputation in the publishing industry that has been earned by nearly 130 years of delivering valuable products,” said Bob Snyder, chairman of Cambridge Information Group. “We're delighted to have the opportunity to acquire this exceptional asset and look forward to the synergies that we will be able to leverage with Cambridge Scientific Abstracts.”

Founded in 1872, R.R. Bowker is North America's leading provider of bibliographic information, and is also the official agency for assigning ISBNs in the

United States. The company's flagship product, *Books In Print*<sup>®</sup>, is available on the Internet at [www.booksinprint.com](http://www.booksinprint.com), on CD-ROM and in hardbound print format. For more information, please visit [www.bowker.com](http://www.bowker.com).

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