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CIBER Opens Global Library Survey in Conjunction with Charleston Conference, ebrary, and YBP

September 28, 2009 – London, UK – The CIBER research group at University College London (UCL) today invited all libraries to participate in an international survey examining challenges, trends, and best practices in tough economic times. Based on input from nearly 200 librarians worldwide, the questionnaire is now available at <http://tinyurl.com/cibersurvey> and will remain open through October 18. Results of the survey, which is co-sponsored by Baker & Taylor’s YBP Library Services and ebrary®, a leading provider of digital content products and technologies, will be announced at the Charleston Conference, November 4-7 in Charleston, SC, USA.

“As the first international survey of its kind, we expect the results will provide a wealth of national comparative data from which global benchmarks can be established,” said Professor David Nicholas, Director of the Department of Information Studies, UCL Centre for Publishing, and CIBER research group. “We invite institutions to take advantage of this unique opportunity to help publishers, vendors, governments, and other members of the information world better understand the issues they face and influence the development of policies to address them.”

“In this difficult economic climate, it is very easy for librarians to experience confusion, hopelessness, and frustration with regard to budget decisions,” said Katina Strauch, Head of Collection Development at College of Charleston and Charleston Conference Founder. “By participating in the survey, academic, public, government, and other types of libraries can come together as a community to share and learn from each other’s experiences. We look forward to discussing the survey results at this year’s Charleston Conference and in other venues.”

“YBP is pleased to support such a comprehensive examination of libraries’ current situations and future plans, including their financial outlook; impact on personnel, resources, and infrastructure; and ways forward,” said Mark Kendall, Senior Vice President, Global Sales at YBP Library Services. “There is much to learn about the difficult choices facing libraries today, and we look forward to hearing their views and ideas.”

“As with our past surveys, ebrary is grateful for this opportunity to collaborate with librarians and other members of the community to explore how resources are accessed and used, this time in the face of unprecedented economic challenges,” said Christopher Warnock, CEO of ebrary. “We are proud to help facilitate a forum for libraries, publishers, vendors, and others to engage in constructive dialogue and explore solutions for an issue that deeply affects us all.”

About CIBER

CIBER’s expertise lies in the mapping, monitoring and evaluating of digital information systems, platforms, services, roll-outs and environments, using robust, big picture and innovative research methods, especially deep log analysis. CIBER has published a number of studies regarding digital information use, ejournal use and impact, cultural heritage online, impact of electronic course texts, information-seeking behavior of business students, and the like. For a full listing visit <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/infostudies/research/ciber/>.

About the Charleston Conference (<http://www.katina.info/conference>)

The Charleston Conference is an informal annual gathering of librarians, publishers, electronic resource managers, consultants, and vendors of library materials in Charleston, SC, in November, to discuss issues of importance to them all. It is designed to be a collegial gathering of individuals from different areas who discuss the same issues in a non-threatening, friendly, and highly informal environment. Presidents of companies discuss and debate with library directors, acquisitions librarians, reference librarians, serials librarians, collection development librarians, and many, many others. Begun in 1980, the Charleston Conference has grown from 20 participants in 1980 to over 1,000 in 2005.

About Baker & Taylor

Baker & Taylor, Inc. (www.baker-taylor.com) is a global information and entertainment services company that offers print and digital books and entertainment products along with value-added services to libraries, educational institutions and retailers. Based in Charlotte, N.C., the company has been in existence for more than 180 years, developing long-term relationships with major

suppliers, including book publishers, movie studios and music labels. Baker & Taylor maintains one of the largest combined in-stock book, video and music inventories in the United States, and services the broadest customer base in the industry. Baker & Taylor is majority owned by Castle Harlan Partners IV, L.P., a leading private equity investment firm.

About ebrary (www.ebrary.com)

ebrary helps libraries, corporations, publishers, and consumers get the most out of their digital content. The company offers a growing selection of more than 170,000 digital books, handbooks, reports, maps, journals and other valuable content from over 350 of the world's leading publishers under flexible subscription, purchase, and usage-based models. Additionally, ebrary offers e-publishing services for customers to cost-effectively distribute their own PDF content online on ebrary's servers or their own.

All ebrary products and services can be integrated and delivered via a single easy-to-use interface that includes powerful tools for finding, discovering, and managing information. With ebrary InfoTools™, every word in the ebrary system is a network to other online resources of the customers' choice, extending their value while increasing end-user knowledge and efficiencies.

Founded in 1999, ebrary is privately held and is headquartered in Palo Alto, CA, USA.

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