



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Contact**

Barbara Van Gorder  
+1.703.709.3000  
bvangorder@apexcovantage.com

### **APEX SPONSORS CELEBRATION OF LAUNCH OF ELECTRONIC ENLIGHTENMENT: AN INNOVATIVE ONLINE RESOURCE PROJECT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

**HERNDON, VA – October 16, 2008** – Apex CoVantage, a leading global knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) company, announced the successful sponsorship of the Electronic Enlightenment (EE) launch celebration held October 9th in the Divinity School of The Bodleian Library. EE is an innovative online resource that provides a revolutionary new kind of access to historical correspondence and documents, enabling scholars and other interested parties to follow the rich intellectual dialog between the thinkers, writers, and public figures who, during the Enlightenment in the 18th century, established the economic, political, intellectual, and cultural foundation for the centuries to follow.

Originally developed at the Voltaire Foundation, EE is now located at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, a project of the Humanities Division of the University of Oxford and distributed by Oxford University Press. Apex has been the digitization partner for the project since its inception.

Held at Oxford's Bodleian Library, one of the oldest libraries in Europe, the evening kicked off with a gala reception attended by leading scholars, librarians, and Oxford faculty. The highlight was an address by the Guest of Honor, Professor Lisa Jardine CBE, Centenary Professor of Renaissance Studies and Director of CELL (Centre for Editing Lives and Letters) at Queen Mary, University of London. The reception was followed by an intimate dinner at the Old Library in St. Edmund Hall.

EE offers unrivalled access to the web of correspondence between the greatest thinkers and writers of the 18th century and their families and friends, bankers and booksellers, patrons and publishers. Users can cross-search letters from writers, scientists, philosophers, politicians, political thinkers and others, including Addison, Bentham, Boswell, Boyle, Catherine the Great, Mme du Châtelet, Defoe, Descartes, Ferguson, Flamsteed, Frederick the Great, Gustav III, Halley, Hobbes, Hume, Kant, Locke, Muratori, Newton, Pendleton, Pope, Price, Richardson, Rousseau, Smith, Steele, Sterne, Swift, Mrs. Thrale, Voltaire, and the U.S. First Federal Congress.

“Apex recognizes the importance of advancing scholarship through innovative online gateways such as the Electronic Enlightenment project. We were honored to have been a sponsor of this spectacular event and to have played a key role in digitizing and encoding this historically important collection of letters and personal papers,” said Bill Kasdorf, Vice President, Apex Content Solutions.

Currently providing access to over 53,000 letters written or received by nearly 6,000 correspondents, the content of EE is planned to grow by several thousand letters a year. Additional content will include both original print editions and individual letters that have come to light since the original editions were published, as well as collections of correspondence that have not previously appeared in print.

EE was conceived by Dr. Robert McNamee, the project’s Research and Development Director, based on the rich correspondence resources of the Voltaire Foundation, University of Oxford. Generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation supported development of the project. Further assistance was provided by the Florence Gould Foundation and the Voltaire Foundation.

Electronic Enlightenment is available by subscription to institutions and individuals worldwide and can be accessed at <http://www.e-enlightenment.com>.

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#### **About Apex CoVantage**

Apex CoVantage ([www.apexcovantage.com](http://www.apexcovantage.com)) is a US provider of Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) services. Apex helps businesses to execute precise knowledge, information and communications strategies through our diverse people, technology and workflow systems. We opened our first KPO service center in 1988 and subsequently pioneered the market for offshore, knowledge-based solutions. Today, we provide engineering and content solutions from a global network of state-of-the-art facilities with US-based project management and leadership. In every industry, our clients are reaching the next level of service performance in partnership with Apex CoVantage.