# Soutron Knowledge Management

Store and access your enterprise wide knowledge assets

Soutron has expertise built up over two decades supplying very customisable Library and Archive Management Systems to corporate, health, institutes, government and special libraries. With over 1000 installations during this period, the requirements of clients that have selected Soutron have a common core running through them, the desire for a very flexible database at the heart of the application that allows them to manage multiple data types and not be limited to just bibliographic data.

Taking full advantage of emerging technologies as they have become available and listening to client needs, Soutron is no longer just a library systems vendor but a solutions provider that applies flexible database technologies to wider information management needs.
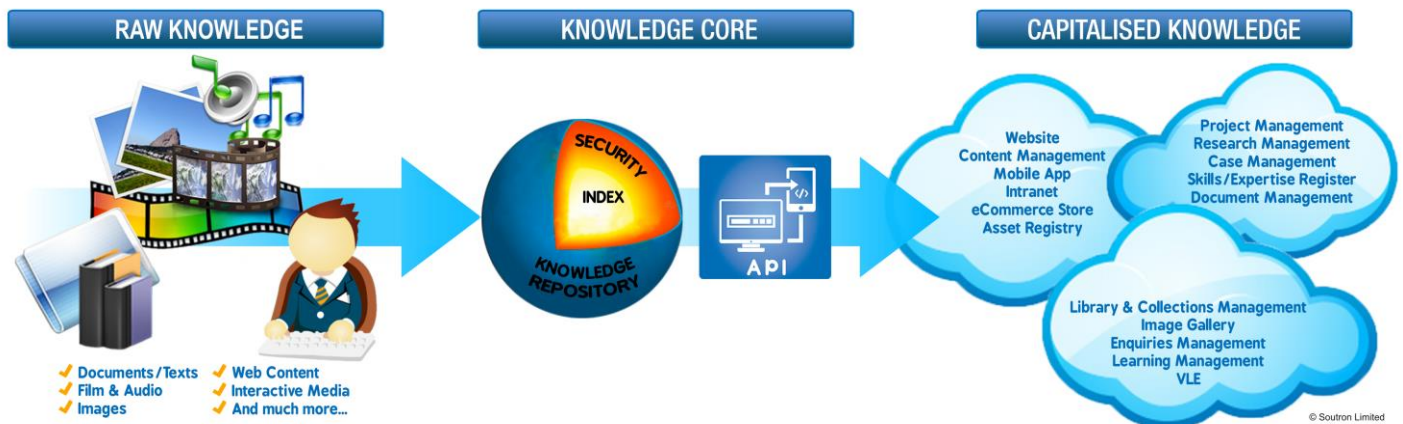
LIBRARY SYSTEMS v KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

The focus of many suppliers in our marketplace is on a narrow specialist field within information management, that of library management which generally provides systems for managing physical assets with limited scope given that data structures are predicated on MARC format. With limited flexibility, this means that systems cannot easily react to the ever-changing needs of corporate/government information services. New development by such providers is restricted to library functions and ignores the broader information landscape.

Our ambitions are different. Yes we provide a full set of library workflows but our system development and our goals are for clients to manage a much more expansive collection of data. At the heart of our solutions is a flexible centralised data store that can manage and provide access to wide ranging and different types of content. It means our clients can be assured of being able to securely and reliably store and access data from different sources, each with different attributes.

Built around a central database store, all commercial knowledge is indexed and classified appropriately and according to organisational need and policy. This forms the foundation of an information/knowledge infrastructure. If the database is sufficiently flexible and correctly configured using relational structures, information can be presented to allow interpretation and capitalisation of knowledge assets across an enterprise. Users can access this knowledge via customised search portals, or by various third party applications

SOLUTIONS CAN COME IN MANY FORMS

Soutron knows that each client's needs vary and require expert analysis to devise a long-term solution, the characteristics of which should incorporate some if not all of the following features and benefits.

- Knowledge and digital resource asset registry
- 360 degree view of the 'Knowledge Landscape'
- Maximise capitalisation of 'Knowledge Assets'
- Maximise access and discovery of information
- Reduce and monitor Data 'Bloating'/Data 'Hoarding'/ Data 'Layering'
- Reduce duplication of data, storage costs and carbon footprint
- Facilitate organisational Knowledge Frameworks and Policies.
- Build a core of Evidence to support decision making
- Dynamic metrics
- Secure access permissions within flexible search portals
- An expertise and skills register to share and allow collaboration

CONTENT VARIETY AND METADATA CONSENSUS

The approach we have taken is to maximise the naturally occurring features in a relational database and apply library and archival science techniques to aid metadata classification. The type of content that is then added and stored becomes a choice for the manager of the application.

There is no need to think in terms of "can the database accommodate this type of data?" rather the question can be phrased "how is the data best represented using the database?" Because all Metadata is contained within a single

database instance and the database can accommodate an infinite variety of Metadata schemas and structures, all of which can be related, the system is seen as a core: a Knowledge Core that can be integrated with search and discovery tools to find and present information in a meaningful way.

For example, this means that Clinical Guidelines can be held in the database alongside images or videos and be related to historical documents describing Evidence Histories. Tree hierarchies can be created to show visually the relationships between data entities or using the API and XML custom interfaces can be devised to draw the relevant information into third party systems.

WHY SOUTRON?

Just some of the reasons clients come to us with complex information management needs:

- Very flexible database technology at the core of our solutions
- In-depth database management expertise
- Information management tools developed to resolve complex issues
- Information management strategists and consultants
- Continual Innovation

NEXT STEPS

We invite you to explore and share your ideas with us in a confidential and informal yet focused conversation. Our mature data management insights and extensive practical experience of using technologies to solve information management problems will help your ideas take shape. **Please contact us:**

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