



PRESS RELEASE FROM GARDNERS BOOKS LTD

The Little Group Ltd, comprising Browns Books for Students and Gardners Books Ltd, are pleased to announce that Askew Group Ltd, which includes Askews Library Services Ltd, has joined The Little Group Ltd with effect from 31st August 2007.

Jonathan Little, Chairman of The Little Group Ltd said:-

“We are very pleased to welcome Askews to the Group. They have always maintained an unbeatable and first-class service to their library customers and we look forward to building on this to provide even better services in the future for both existing and potential customers. Annual sales across the Group will be around £180m with a significant 20% into the International Market.”

Gardners Books is committed to ensuring our first class range of support services are equally available to all our customers, both in the UK and Internationally.

We recognise that those requirements are very different for Independent Retailers, Library and School Suppliers, major Chain retailers, specialist retailers and Internet retailers, and very often a different combination of our services are used by many of our customers to bring efficiencies into their own business offer.

Through investment in our systems and physical stockholding in Eastbourne, and the dual development of our Digital Warehouse Services, our goal is to enable our customers to fully engage with their customers at every opportunity and with the benefit of a ‘low investment – high return’ supply chain which is at the leading edge within our Book industry.”

Kathryn Pattinson, Askews Managing Director comments:-

“Askews has been at the forefront of library supply for over 100 years. We believe this new partnership with the UK’s largest and most successful book wholesaler will strengthen our position both nationally and internationally. The added strength of group IT services and operational functions, plus the wider stock holding available within Gardners, will greatly benefit our customers and will help us to continue to develop and expand our services.”

The exciting new Digital Warehouse, which is shortly to be available through Gardners Books, will also enable us to offer E-books, audio downloads and the new digital marketing materials, such as author videos, podcasts and “View Inside” features, to our library customers.”

John Cropley, Askews Chairman has welcomed the move saying that “it safeguards the future of the Company and employees as well as providing continuing service enhancements to library customers worldwide.”

31st August 2007