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CINDAS LLC, a West Lafayette (Indiana) based company which provides technical, electronic databases to governmental research facilities, corporations and universities world-wide has donated the use of five of its web-based products to three Chilean universities devastated by the recent earthquake in Chile. The products are the Aerospace Structural Metals Database, the Thermophysical Properties of Matter Database, the Microelectronics Packaging Materials Database, the Structural Alloys Handbook and the Damage Tolerant Design Handbook.

The donation benefits the University of Talca, which is key for the development of the Maule Region where it is located (one of the three most devastated areas by the earthquake and the tsunami). The University of Talca has 7000 students and 400 faculty staff. Their estimated cost of reconstruction totals \$9 million (USD). The second university that will benefit from the CINDAS donation is the University of Concepción, located in the Region del Bio Bio. This is the fourth largest university in the country, and probably the one that was hit the worst, not just by the earthquake, which caused a fire at the Chemistry Faculty Labs, but also by the powerful tsunami that nearly washed out its Marine Biology Department, located in Dichato. Universidad de Concepción has a population of over 21,700 students, which are enrolled in graduate and postgraduate programs. For more than 90 years, the University of Concepción has been key for the cultural, educational, technological, and economic development of the Region. Their total estimated damage is \$50 million (USD).

The third university is Universidad Santa María. Its main campuses are located in Valparaíso and Talcahuano where the campus library building suffered tremendous damage. For over 80 years USM, with a student population of 15,000, has distinguished itself as a first level university and research center in technologies. It is well-respected in the electronics and infrastructure industry for its consultants and researchers.

CINDAS LLC owners Patricia and Frank Mason of West Lafayette recently met with library representatives from Chile at an international Seminar of Innovation of Technological and Scientific Information in the Dominican Republic, sponsored by Systems Link International. After hearing about the destruction of university buildings and the loss of research facilities, projects and data, the owners decided to offer free use of their products to the three universities for two years' time. The information in the five databases will assist engineers in rebuilding the infrastructure of the country.

Upon hearing about the offer, Systems Link International President Robert Wing said that this generous offer will no doubt help not only the benefitted universities, but also the engineers in the country in their study and development of better structures that will allow reducing the damage that this type of catastrophic natural disasters can cause to the country's infrastructure. This donation is also a reflection of the interest that the scientific publishers have in helping the development of research in the Latin American Region.

It is expected that the libraries will re-establish some internet connectivity in April and begin using the databases at that time.