

dations, to find the most appropriate and accessible grant opportunities. SciVal Funding fully catalogs limited submission programs, allowing administrators to set up necessary internal review mechanisms to ensure that the process is completed in a timely fashion.

Insight into the complex environment of research funding is provided via a historical record of which grants were awarded to which researcher and at which specific institution. And with the use of prepopulated research profiles, SciVal Funding can also provide alerts about new funding opportunities.

Source: Elsevier (www.elsevier.com)

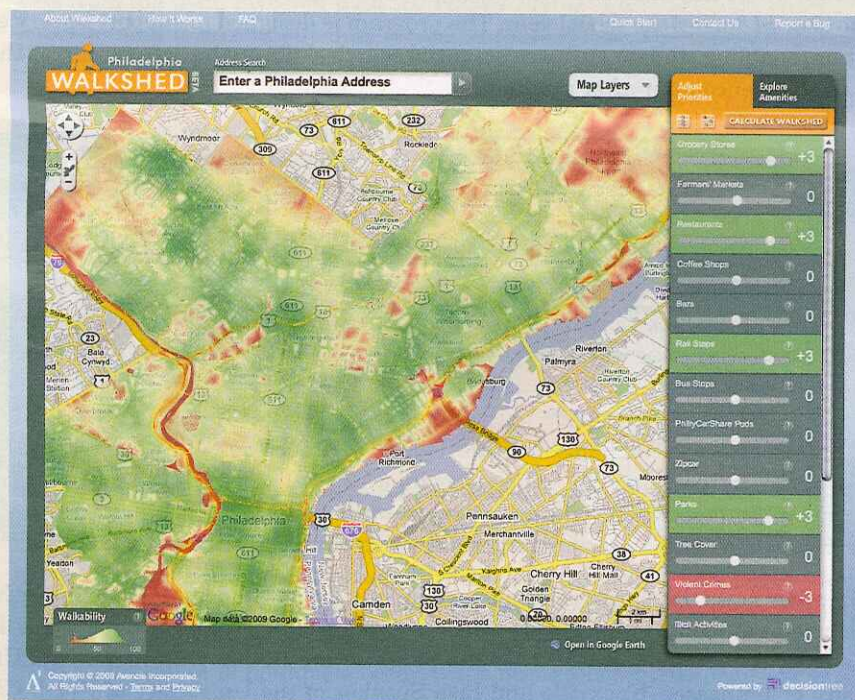
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Walkshed: A Walk in the Park

FEATURED PRODUCT

Any city dweller knows the benefits of having useful amenities within walking distance. Need some milk? It's half a block to the corner store. Want a bite to eat? Grab your jacket and go. But determining "walkability" in an unfamiliar area isn't easy, even in this era of block-by-block online business listings. Walkshed (<http://walkshed.org>), a website launched in October by Philadelphia-based software development firm Avencia, Inc., is trying to add some value to distance.

Walkshed is basically Google Maps for feet. The site was inspired by the concept of the "walkshed index," a measure of walkability based on the quantity and diversity of amenities in a one-mile radius, first suggested by Alan Durning



of the Sightline Institute. Walkshed assigns a score from 1 to 100 to an address depending on how difficult a place is to reach from a starting point. The site follows street layouts and uses the notion of "friction" to determine how difficult it is to pass through a given area by taking into account unusual terrain or impassable structures such as rivers or walls.

The site is the personal project of Aaron Ogle, a software developer with Avencia, and is built on the company's DecisionTree geographic planning and prioritizing software. It currently covers only the Philadelphia region, although the Walkshed site indicates plans to expand to other cities. A similar site called Walk Score (which Ogle and Avencia acknowledge as an inspiration; www.walkscore.com) currently covers 40 major cities, but it relies on line-of-sight measurement instead.

Avencia also notes that walkability isn't just about convenience. According to a recent report titled "Walking the Walk: How Walkability Raises Home Values in U.S. Cities" from the CEOs for Cities organization, greater foot traffic in an area is a benefit on two major fronts: It lowers crime rates and raises property values.

—Kurt Schiller

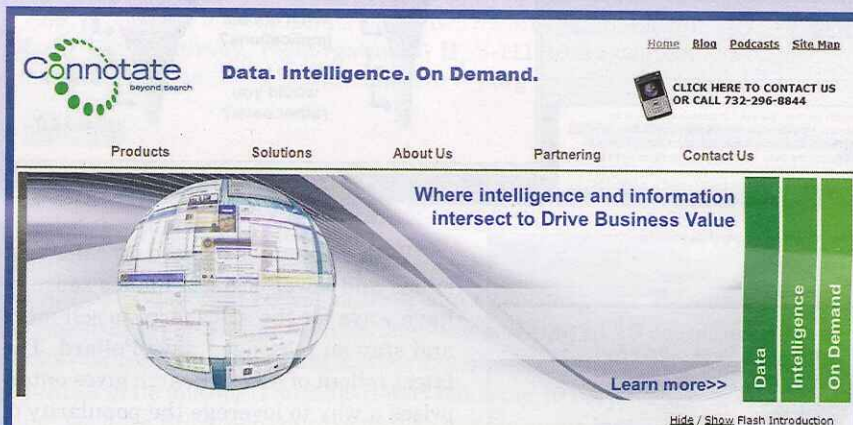
Connotate: Letting Agents Do the Work

FEATURED PRODUCT

In this era of information overload, shrinking budgets, and doing more with less, enterprises are eager to stay on the cutting edge of competitive intelligence.

Since its launch in 2000, Connotate has been changing the way enterprises leverage data from the web. In fact, Connotate's technology takes a giant step beyond simple search to let users create and share applications that automatically drill down and dig up information and analyze the findings in the process using special Agents.

"These easy-to-create Agents can empower users to spend time watching trends in the market and making mission critical decisions," says Lokesh Seth, vice president of product development. Connotate's machine-intelligent Agents can be trained and programmed to ferret out data, mash up information from multiple sources, and deliver high-value content right to the user. These Agents can also be created and published in minutes instead of days, says Seth, "so users can assemble massive armies of Agents to gather and analyze data for a variety of purposes."



Connotate's Agent Community GEN2 is a flexible and scalable platform that end users (without prior programming experience) can employ to train Agents to gather information they want. The recent addition of the Developer Edition extends the reach of the Agent Community GEN2 platform to the developer community. It enables developers and programmers to customize Agents using Microsoft's Visual Studio IDE (integrated development environment).

Basically, the Developer Edition lets developers "get under the hood," says Seth. They can add scripts, loops, or API calls to customize the Agents for information architects, integrators, portal builders, information aggregators, and technologists who are dealing with silos of information. They can get as granular as they want, says Seth.

Seth explains that Agents can be created easily to gather information. Simply "teach" the Agent what you want it to monitor by highlighting the elements of a webpage. Highlight the headlines and text that you want to watch and the ads and extraneous elements that you don't want, and the Agent is automatically programmed to find changes and updates on the page as they happen in real time. Plus, the Agents can be shared by a workgroup community.

"With more than 1 trillion pages on the web and companies dealing with siloed information, we're spending 25% to 45% of our time trying to find information," says Bruce Molloy, CEO. "Companies that want to keep a competitive advantage need to use tools to create efficiencies in the workplace so they can adjust to the changing market. The Connotate platform lets users program Agents to access needed information, to share Agents, and then to deliver value to the end users."

The Developer Edition represents the best of both worlds, says Seth. It combines the ease of creating automatic Agents using machine intelligence with programmatic control. "It's not a nice-to-have product," he says. "This is a need-to-have product."

—Barbara Brynko