SupplierNews - September 2018

Catalog Summary Information

Here is summary information about your hosted catalog(s). The credentials given below are for the SampleSQCustomer site which allows you to view and search products like a JAGGAER customer. Click here to log into the SampleSQCustomer site.

Supplier Information and Credentials
The "Mailing test - batch A - cat 1" catalog (SupplierID 222210) has 333 products. Last updated on 12/5/2014. (Credentials - (NotAssigned) / (NotAssigned))
The "Mailing test - batch A - cat 2" catalog (SupplierID 222211) has 4444 products. Last updated on 6/15/2014. (Credentials - sqtestuser1 / pwdone)
The "Mailing test - batch A - cat 3" catalog (SupplierID 222212) has 12345678 products. Last updated on 1/1/2005. (Credentials - sqtestuser2 / pwdtwo)

To log into your JAGGAER Portal to manage your catalog(s), click here.

IMPORTANT:
Are you aware of changes needed for IP Address/Security Certificates?

Non-printable Characters in Excel Files
Used for Content Submissions

With our 18.1 Release back in April 2018, we have started accepting Excel files for the content/price/proxy submissions used for managing hosted catalog. While Excel files offer immense convenience over tab delimited text files, they can result in data corruption due to the ease with which "control characters", commonly called "non-printable characters", can be included in the Excel file content.

Most common example of a non-printable character is a "new line character". As the name suggests, any further characters after such character in the value are begun on a new line when displaying the value. Attribute values used in the JAGGAER Procurement Applications should NOT have any such non-printable characters.

Even though they get loaded, they can lead to undesired consequences when it comes to

handling attribute values with such characters. At worst, it can lead to complete inability to edit content/prices/proxy accessibility in your hosted catalog.

How to determine if your hosted catalog content has non-printable characters: In your JAGGAER Supplier Portal, generate a 'Draft Content' extract and set 'Tab Delimited' as the 'File Type' option. Open the tab delimited file of the content extract. Each line should begin with Category name. If the data seems 'discontinuous' then you have non-printable characters in that row. E.g. You might find that a line begins with Packaging UOM value or partial part of Product Description. Be aware that some non-printable characters may not result in such discontinuous data and the only way to avoid them might be to clean up the Excel file as indicated below.

How to avoid loading such non-printable characters: While Excel offers a function, 'Clean', to remove such non-printable characters, running it on the entire worksheet is not easy and so preferred strategy is to not let in such non-printable characters in the first place. Any time you export data from any external source – such as website data, database applications etc. – to use in the Excel file, export it in tab delimited text format and then open/maintain it in Excel.

JAGGAER has created an Excel based tool that can be used to clean up Excel file content. It is a macro driven tool that is provided on an as-is basis. It is expected to run on Excel versions 2010 and beyond. However, JAGGAER does not offer any support should it not work for you. If you are interested in trying it, please click here to download the Excel file. Open the file and follow the usage instructions.

Logos/Placeholders Should NOT Be Provided as Product Images

A picture says a thousand words. By that same token, a bad picture says a thousand bad words about your product! Images are very desirable in your hosted content and are highly recommended by buyers. They can be image of the product itself – such as picture of gloves or office chair – or an image relevant to the product – such as picture of gel assay for a product that is a molecular weight marker.

What buyers do NOT want to see is your logo or a placeholder image that has been provided just for the sake of having an image for the product. To see how it adversely affects display of your hosted content in the JAGGAER Procurement Applications, log into the SampleSQCustomer site using the credentials provided in the 'Catalog Summary Section' above and search for 'LogosAreNotImages'. In the results you will see that the JAGGAER logo has been provided if product image is not available. **It does not provide any additional information about the product to the buyer.** In fact, it dilutes the impact of valid product images. If you do not have a product image, do not provide logo or placeholder image of a box.

Buyers prefer a catalog if it has good image content and not necessarily because it has higher percentage of images. Be sure to provide image that provides visual information about the product itself and helps the buyer make a sound purchasing decision.

Questions?

For questions about topics in this newsletter, please contact:

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