

Use of library's resources skyrockets after implementation of WorldCat Local



Mark O. Hatfield Library moves to WorldCat Local after initial "quick start" success

Situation

Founded in 1842, Willamette University is a top-ranked private liberal arts university located on 70 acres of the Pacific Northwest in Salem, Oregon. Willamette is the oldest university in the western U.S., and was originally started by Methodist missionary Jason Lee as a place for the education of the local Native American population.

Willamette University is also home to the Mark O. Hatfield Library, which is part of the Orbis Cascade Alliance. The library's local catalog is part of Summit, the popular northwestern union catalog and borrowing system.

"We have never been fully satisfied with our local ILS interface," said Bill Kelm, Systems Librarian at the Hatfield Library. "Our consortium was moving to the WorldCat Navigator platform for our shared Summit catalog, and WorldCat Local seemed like a logical move to make."

Solution

The Hatfield Library began using WorldCat Local "quick start" as its search-and-discovery platform before the full implementation of WorldCat Local in August 2009, and preparation for the new system went smoothly. "We used [WorldCat Local] 'quick start' just to get a feel as to what our WorldCat Local instance would look like once we had it in place," said Kelm. "It also allowed us to do some customizations on our Summit display."

Results

"Users really like WorldCat Local and have found it easy to use and understand," said Kelm. "Our previous catalog never included journal article results in it, so the vastness of the database can be overwhelming [for users at first]."

AT A GLANCE

The Mark O. Hatfield Library at Willamette University

- The Mark O. Hatfield Library on the campus of Willamette University has eight staff members and eleven librarians/archivists
- The library serves 2,406 undergraduate and graduate students, along with 250 faculty members
- The library houses almost 400,000 individual titles, including books, articles, CDs and DVDs
- The library has more than 150 databases and more than 25,000 electronic journal titles.

"The majority of users really like WorldCat Local and have found it easy to use and understand."

*Bill Kelm, Systems Librarian,
Mark O. Hatfield Library,
Willamette University, Salem, OR*

Mark O. Hatfield Library's usage shows tremendous growth after implementation of WorldCat Local



The increase in use of the Hatfield Library's resources exploded in the first three months of WorldCat Local use. "ILL book requests are up 270 percent; it had been around 50 per month and now it is close to 200," explained Kelm. "Resolver hits to electronic resources are up 58 percent, and ILL article requests are up 21 percent."

Kelm did have one piece of advice for any library making the move to WorldCat Local: "Give your users plenty of heads up that the new interface is coming, and be ready for a dramatic increase in ILL."