

Interlibrary loan increases 50 percent after implementation of WorldCat Local “quick start”

The Stanley Library placed resource sharing at the heart of its strategic plan

Situation

Ferrum College is a four-year undergraduate school located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of southwestern Virginia in the town of Ferrum. The college offers 33 areas of study ranging from business and environmental science to teacher education and criminal justice. Approximately 1,400 students attend the college with 80 percent of them residing on Ferrum’s 700-acre campus.

Staff at the Stanley Library on the Ferrum College campus were looking for a way to make WorldCat® more accessible to their users at a time when they were also experimenting with federated searching.

“We wanted to make it [easier] for students and faculty to discover books available by interlibrary loan,” explains Cy Dillon, Executive Director of the Stanley Library. “Resource sharing is an essential part of our strategic plan. [Our goal was] to help our students take advantage of the resources available through interlibrary loan, and promote critical thinking as part of the research process.”

Solution

The Stanley Library turned toward WorldCat Local™ “quick start” to help achieve its goals. Staff members soon discovered the configuration of the new discovery-to-delivery service was fast and easy. Dillon explains that no seminars were required, and that e-mail between OCLC® and his library staff made the configuration process go smoothly. It took “perhaps two hours,” said Dillon.

The library’s staff was informed about the addition of WorldCat Local “quick start” at a meeting, where it was decided that implementation would be a top priority for the fall 2009 semester. The WorldCat Local “quick start” search box was placed in the center of the library’s home page where “it was being used the day it appeared on our site,” noted Dillon. He also stated that the library staff enjoyed the ease of access available with WorldCat Local “quick start” when helping researchers explore book resources.

AT A GLANCE

The Stanley Library at Ferrum College

- The Stanley Library holds approximately 110,000 physical volumes, plus more than 100,000 cataloged eBooks.
- The 40,000-square-foot library also includes the college’s board room, two computer labs, four classrooms, an auditorium, a 24-hour study room and an art gallery.
- The library is run by seven staff members who serve approximately 1,400 undergraduate students.

“We have served our students and faculty better [after implementing WorldCat Local “quick start”]. That’s the bottom line.”

***Cy Dillon, PhD, Executive Director,
Stanley Library, Ferrum College, Ferrum, VA***

Results

Requests for books through interlibrary loan have increased 50 percent since WorldCat Local “quick start” went live at Stanley Library. Dillon says that Ferrum College students have used ILL more frequently, adding that “they have identified libraries to visit for research. I have even found that I could teach freshman classes how to use it.”

And the greatest benefit to Ferrum College? “We have served our students and faculty better. That’s the bottom line,” said Dillon.

For more information about WorldCat Local “quick start,” please visit www.oclc.org/worldcatlocal/quickstart, or contact OCLC at libservices@oclc.org. To download the WorldCat Local “quick start” brochure, please visit www.oclc.org/services/brochures.