



## Single search box returns results

*WorldCat Local provides easy access to information for faculty and students at the University of the Southern Caribbean's Forde Library.*

### Situation

*The University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) is situated on the 384-acre La Realista Estate in Maracas Valley, Trinidad, and serves staff and students from more than 35 countries. USC's Forde Library is the academic center of the campus. The Library boasts of a fully functional LMS, the addition of electronic books and journals, and scheduled class sessions for instructing students as well as introducing freshmen to the services and resources of the library and an expansion beyond physical space into the virtual world through the provision of access to virtual resources. Mrs. Petra Pierre-Robertson, Director of the Forde Library shares some triumphs and tribulations encountered in communicating the value of the library's services to library users.*

One of the challenges we faced was getting users to satisfactorily retrieve information through the subscribed electronic resources. Before the implementation of WorldCat Local, users experienced frustration searching multiple platforms and complained that search results did not yield information for the topic being searched. Interestingly, though the students had access to all of the databases the library subscribed to, they often gave up quickly after their search attempt via the first interface failed. From that point, other users' default was to use Google, or some other search engine.

One of our primary goals is that of establishing the library as an information guide. An action item within our plan included the implementation of a discovery service by 2011. OCLC's WorldCat Local was the right solution to help us fulfill this action item, as it contributed to achieving our overall strategic plan and was well within our budget.

### AT A GLANCE

- The University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) is a private, coeducational institution with a diverse student body located in the twin-island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- USC's current holdings total approximately 40,000 volumes, besides microfiche, and bound and unbound periodicals.
- The library has a growth rate of 1,000 volumes a year.
- Learn more about USC online at: <http://uosc.edu/library/>

***“OCLC's WorldCat Local was the right solution to help us fulfill this action item, as it contributed to achieving our overall strategic plan and was well within our budget.”***

### Solution

Given the challenge of accessing information, WorldCat Local was implemented to meet the needs of our culturally and technologically diverse student and faculty populations. We are now able to meet the needs all of our users, regardless of whether they are novices or experts in conducting research.

Because WorldCat Local is so simple and because it functions similar to search engines, our users are now able to make this search box, their one-stop shop for finding information locally, virtually or among our physical collections. WorldCat Local has also eliminated many complexities as it relates to interlibrary loan.

*Continued*

# Single search box returns results

*Continued*



## Results

WorldCat Local represents an affordable, simple and effective tool that our users loved. It has delivered our resources to our users' fingertips through an interface that resembles our catalog, as well search engines that our students use daily. It has helped our library improve its overall services in terms of access to information.

### Learn more about WorldCat Local at

[www.oclc.org/worldcatlocal](http://www.oclc.org/worldcatlocal).

To contact OCLC Latin America and the Caribbean, please send an e-mail to [america\\_latina@oclc.org](mailto:america_latina@oclc.org).



*Forde Library, University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad*