

Profile: Davenport Community School District

Davenport, Iowa

"Using the same library automation software throughout the district makes resource sharing a wonderful reality and staff training a breeze. Follett's Windows programs make a world of difference from the products we were using previously."

~ Gary Sloat

Director, Learning Information Services
Davenport Community School District

Davenport Community School District's libraries were all automated, but using varying computer platforms and automation systems—most with outdated technology. To simplify its technology and workload and provide its students with improved learning opportunities, the district decided to upgrade all 31 school libraries to a new automation system on the Windows platform, and connect them electronically to promote resource sharing. Davenport chose Follett Software Company as its new automation vendor. The new system is now enabling the district to deliver leading-edge learning opportunities to more than 17,000 students and improving efficiency throughout the libraries.

Schools:	31
Elementary:	21
Intermediate:	6
High:	4
Enrollment:	17,000

Their Story

Davenport was using a mixture of early Apple® and DOS® library automation software. The district wanted to move all the schools to the same system and take advantage of Internet technology to share resources and bring its students enhanced, equal learning opportunities. Davenport selected Follett Software's Windows®-based multiuser Circulation Plus®, Catalog Plus® and WebCollection Plus™ software.

Easy Implementation, Simplified Operation & Expanded Access

Davenport chose Follett Software's Circulation Plus and Catalog Plus for Windows to streamline its circulation and collection management, and to provide extensive online searching of library collections.

Easy Implementation

Because Davenport was implementing the Windows platform in other areas of the schools, Follett's Windows programs enabled the library team to create synergies across the district. Less training was needed because students and staff were already using Windows. Plus, the Windows GUI (Graphical User Interface) made the programs more user-friendly, ensuring the transition to the new programs was an easy, logical one.



Simplified Operation

Circulation Plus and Catalog Plus for Windows delivers simplified, enhanced electronic circulation and cataloging. The new system's point-and-click ease, consolidated setup and report functions help the district make changes and gather statistics quickly. Plus, the true 32-bit client/server technology enables multitasking and quicker processing. And, one standardized system makes staff training and system maintenance easier.

Expanded Access

The new system also expanded students' searching capabilities with keyword searching, SEE and SEE ALSO cross references and instant hyperlinking to related web sites. Broader searching options have made it easier for students to find information and have turned their library visits into more positive, productive experiences.

"Our students and librarians are really benefiting from the new system. Remote searching capabilities have greatly increased students' interest in the library. And, because these programs are so easy to use, our library staff has more time to spend with the students."

~ Gary Sloat

Director, Learning Information Services



Internet-Based Searching Creates a Library Without Walls

Davenport chose Follett Software's Internet-based searching program, WebCollection Plus, to connect its libraries and give students and staff access to a much larger collection of resources without having to maintain a centralized database.

Resource Sharing

By putting each library's collection online, WebCollection Plus enables Davenport's students and faculty to search any of the district's library collections from other locations—other libraries, classrooms, their homes and elsewhere—over the Internet. And it encourages searchers to look beyond their own school's collection when they need additional information.

Cross-Platform Compatibility

Although Davenport was standardizing with Windows, it still had some Macintosh® workstations scattered throughout the buildings. WebCollection Plus enabled the district to make use of these machines because the program is accessed through a web browser. This allowed Davenport to leverage its library dollars by turning every connected computer into a lookup station, regardless of platform.

Within one year, Davenport upgraded all of its library automation software to a high-performance standardized system connected via the Internet. These changes have transformed each library into a more valuable resource that provides staff and students with readily available technology and information resources critical to education today.

Benefits

How Are Davenport Schools Benefiting from Follett Software Library Automation & Internet Solutions?

- **Resource Sharing** Online access to district-wide library resources is encouraging students and staff to share resources and explore further.
- **Standardized, Improved Software** Media specialists are completing operational tasks more quickly, leaving more time for students and teachers; technology specialists are spending less time training staff; and students are locating materials more easily and quickly. Students also have equal access to resources district-wide.
- **Simplified Support** Standardized programs are making system maintenance easier.
- **Cross-Platform Searching** More search stations are available and money is being saved because the district was able to continue using existing non-Windows workstations.
- **Camaraderie** Improved, standardized tools have generated excitement and collaboration among media specialists.



Software
Company

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