

Danum School Technology College

Eclipse.net Case Study

Danum School Technology College is an 11-18 school serving the East Side of Doncaster, South Yorkshire, England. Leger Way is the Key Stage 3 site and caters for three year groups, with approximately 310 pupils in each. Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form students are based in the school's Armthorpe Road site which accommodates two cohorts of 310 students each and a Sixth Form of over 550. Each site hosts a library in which there are many resources, books (fiction and non-fiction), Internet, MOS software, DVDs/Videos, Newspapers, Periodicals, Online subscriptions, Inter-Library Loans, CDs -all available to the students and staff we serve.

I began as Librarian of Danum STC in July 2000 and inherited the older version of MLS, as a DOS-run LMS! I was determined not to learn it and set about upgrading to a PC based system. Eclipse was naturally high on the consideration list but financial protocols demanded quotes from a minimum of 3 LM systems. I obtained 5 and after due consideration, including the system I had used in both my previous schools, Eclipse remained the top choice.

I have never regretted this choice. Eclipse has always proven simple to use with the staff amenable to all suggestions for improvements. Many of which have been met with the launch of Eclipse.net.

Eclipse.net

Luckily I have no access to the IT elements of the LMS. Our school network is run via RM with RM and MLS having a long history of collaboration. Indeed

when I first moved to Eclipse from the DOS version they coordinated with our Systems Manager and all converged in school together to get us up and running. Now I simply ask our Systems Manager to upgrade, we set a suitable time and when I next come in to work everything is ready to run.

A great aspect of Eclipse has always been the ability to transfer data from SIMS, initial hiccups have gone and the whole process takes about 5 minutes.

Upgrades are appearing very often at present with Eclipse.net as glitches in this new system are ironed out, but I expect these to slow down soon and then we will be able to pick and choose when to upgrade as before. The fact upgrades are available immediately as part of our package is what I expect from any LMS, but have not always been offered.

My Assistant Librarian Kay Jackson states "Circulate being always accessible is fantastic [Me - certainly this is the most useful of the many upgrades, the ability to open Circulation as a separate window]; Unlimited keywords – great; Even though it means typing capitals, I prefer that you can type a title exactly as it appears without automatic adjustments over-riding; The drop down menus since the [latest] upgrade are fantastic, hopefully they will cut down things being typed in many different forms.



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I have already tidied some fields e.g. Location and will work my way through the rest, as time permits; I think it has improved considerably from the start and since the latest update I feel it is much better to use and will result in more accurate records.”

Help Desk

I cannot praise the Help Desk enough. I have never been made to feel a fool and return calls or emails are usually within an hour or, if email, within 24 hours.

Explanations are clear and requests for further information are always polite and obvious. The addition of the Forum on the Micro Librarian website is a further step forward and one of which I make great use. Micro Librarian clearly listens to our suggestions and they implement wish list items in upgrades as far as is practical.

I believe that no matter how much pre-testing Micro Librarian did there would inevitably be glitches needing ironing out. The Systems Manager has born the brunt of the initial problems as they were of an IT nature, having to upgrade Eclipse.net three times with new releases, the old version was very much

“set and forget” we installed it, and had to do very little else. There was a timing out problem, which drove us all mad but it seems to be better and is an element in-school IT can fix and our current problem is with setting restrictions for different year groups, again we are in dialogue with the Help Desk to fix this.

In Future

I expect I will continue to advocate and promote Eclipse.net. I intend to promote SearchStar as part of a whole school information literacy project and hope to get our students using the system independently.

I hope to use Web Parts eventually, when a compatible version with our intended VLE is made available, and I expect Eclipse.net to be a major part of making our Library visible to students externally to the physical localities.



I also intend to make use of the reviews facilities and cataloguing of websites. I have not explored the full capabilities of Eclipse.net yet, there seems so much more we could do, but anybody wishing to see Eclipse.net in action are more than welcome to visit our library.



“Micro Librarian clearly value School Librarian opinions and I feel listened to and a part of helping it improve. A fabulous product with superb customer service.”

Lynne Coppendale
Librarian