

# Elizabeth College Eclipse Case Study

Elizabeth College is situated in the Channel Island of Guernsey. Founded in 1563 by Queen Elizabeth I, Elizabeth College is an independent senior school for boys with approximately 500 students on roll, (age 11 – 18). The school occupies a prominent location on the St Peter Port skyline. Our bright, well equipped library offers spectacular views across to the other islands of Sark, Herm and Alderney, and, on a clear day, even France.

From talking to my predecessor, I know that a great deal of thought and research went into which computerised library system to invest in, because it was considered a financial investment and the previous system had been card based. A move towards computerization was considered a big step! Being in Guernsey we needed to be sure that any system would be backed up by a reliable telephone after sales service, as it is time consuming and costly for us to travel to the mainland for support and training.

So, one year on, I am delighted to say that my experience of working with Eclipse has been painless! From inheriting an on-line catalogue of 500 books we are now well over 2,000 - and adding daily, largely thanks to the speed of cataloguing with MagiCat.

One of the major benefits of the system is the SearchStar facility. SearchStar and the Curriculum provides great resources to introduce Yr 7's to the library. Students really enjoy using SearchStar to find books – especially the floor plan, and often

challenge each other to find items on the shelves! The fact that the system is so popular with students means that encouraging them to use it is easy. Our pupils are so used to finding information on screen that it is essential for the library to be part of this technological world. We are also all aware that we must present books in a modern way if they are to hold their place next to the internet, DVD and other forms of information.

Any technical glitches, (usually down to upgrades at our end), have been resolved via the telephone with our IT manager and the helpdesk. So often, once they have your money, it's the last you hear from them! MLS is quite the opposite, they are constantly listening to users to improve their product, offer excellent customer service and help us to do the best job possible for our students. I was particularly impressed at a SLA conference to hear feedback from other librarians on updates and changes that they had suggested and that MLS had taken on board, and were working to improve.

Now that we are well on the way to cataloguing our library resources we are also looking at keeping track of departmental libraries in order to provide a more efficient service to our students, and to save duplication when purchasing new stock. This has been an aim for the past few years, and with the simplicity of the Eclipse system we are nearer it becoming a reality.

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