

Northlands Girls' High School Eclipse Case Study

Northlands Girls' High is a school for girls aged 13 to 18 years. We have around 700 pupils and are situated in Durban on the East Coast of South Africa.

Back in the early 1990s we were using a manual card catalogue system and with over 20,000 resources, stock taking was a nightmare and it was difficult to keep track of borrowing.

When we first considered computerising we evaluated several products including Papyrus, Libwin and MLP as it was called then. We opted for MLP and purchased the library software to run on our Acorn Risc computers. When Micro Librarian Systems moved to PCs we decided to move with them – it was either stay with someone we knew or investigate other local packages and change to something new. In the end ease of data conversion played a major role in the decision and we decided to stick with MLS.

In 2001 we converted to Eclipse and the conversion went smoothly, although a few fields had to be adjusted

afterwards to suit our preferences. As we have such a large stock, stocktaking was a major consideration in our decision. Issues and returns are much faster now too, and searching can be performed efficiently and with speed.

Overall our students like Eclipse, especially Identikit which fascinates them. The students all use SearchStar which is networked in the library and both staff and students appreciate the user friendly clear and uncluttered screen displays.

Our experience of purchasing and installing Eclipse was straightforward, although not being in the UK we did have to get bank draft clearance and the conversion to Rand made it seem very expensive to the locals!

“Overall we have been pleased with the support and service provided by MLS, especially considering we are on the other side of the world.”

Elize Dramowski
Librarian

