

# SHAPE International School Junior Librarian Case Study

I am the Librarian working in the SHAPE International School (SIS) which is located in Belgium. The SIS serves the military community with parents serving at the NATO Headquarters in Mons. The “British Section” of SIS has 162 pupils, ranging in age from 3-11 years of age, of which about 20% are ‘overseas’ students, whose native language is other than English.

Before investing in “Junior Librarian” we had a self-built automated system but it was somewhat inflexible and seemed to be full of ‘gremlins’! The primary requirements in our search for a replacement were firstly, the ability to transfer the database from the old system as we have about 10,000 resources and secondly, to have a child friendly, easy to use, modern system.

The first requirement was particularly difficult to address as other library applications could not import pre-existing data. Fortunately our IT Coordinator saw an advert for Junior Librarian. When she contacted them they said they had successfully undertaken data transfers for other customers and were sure that they could do the same for us. Indeed, this proved to be the case.

have them immediately “re-issued.” This process seems to confuse the children, especially the youngsters, and is time consuming as it often requires supervision. I would emphasise that this comparatively insignificant problem has not been developed further by Micro Librarian Systems because Junior Librarian is a self service software that does not enforce due back dates.

Despite this small issue, I would definitely recommend the Junior Librarian system to any school!

Claire Wallace  
Librarian

The system is a huge success with staff and children alike. It is easy to use and above all reliable. The identikit thumb scanner has been particularly popular. The children love it. To be honest it probably really is best suited to older children; the younger ones frequently fail to place their thumbs on the pad fully and it fails to read the finger print accurately. Notwithstanding, the sheet barcode/reader number method we also use is very good, highly efficient and the children make few mistakes with it.

In terms of experience, we have found only one minor problem. Many of the children enjoy reading the longer novels. We require all our children to renew their books weekly – it is a sensible practice and avoids problems downstream. As there is no “re-new” facility in Junior Librarian, children have to “return” their books and then

