

# South Wolds Community School Eclipse Case Study

Eclipse is very straightforward to use on a daily basis, and library staff and student assistants pick it up quickly. It has different levels of security if I don't want students to have access to certain functions

It does simple and advanced searches, both relatively painless to learn. It is easy to programme advance closures with reminders for me to date returns over the holidays. It reduces the tedium of doing overdue. It gives statistics without hassle students were stunned to discover how much our stock is worth in conversation about the value of things the other day.

Cataloguing is user-friendly, being able to flag items means changes can be made very quickly or lists generated. I recently used flagging to change the location of various items that I was promoting in display bins. It meant that people knew where things were even though they were temporarily shelved elsewhere. The drawback to having a stand-a-lone is that students don't have access to the catalogue except via library staff. We therefore invested in 'Copycat'.

We have it installed on three dedicated machines in the library. As always, it was simplicity itself to install. I've found the instructions that come with all Micro Librarian Systems programs are very clear and written with the non-technical in mind. I have to update Copycat every so often as more

stock is added, and it doesn't tell students if the item is out or not, but it does mean they can access the catalogue and be taught how to use a computer catalogue.

I buy into the Help Line because it includes upgrades. Recently I had reason to be glad of it. I'd introduced fines for one section of stock but when it came to fines being paid, I couldn't get it to cancel them! I contacted the Help Line by email and had a reply straightaway, and constant attention by email and phone until it was sorted. All very friendly and stress free.

When Micro Librarian Systems advertised 'Identikit'. I didn't even hesitate! It has made a huge difference. No more excuses about how, "Someone must have taken it out on my account".

"Goodness, and you didn't realise they'd borrowed your finger to do this!"

"Oh yeah. I'll have another look..."

Nine times out of ten, the item is returned.

I've not yet had a single person refuse to have their fingerprint scanned. New parents are told beforehand that we have a biometric scanner for LRC borrowing and it is accepted as new technology, and part of security for them as much as the LRC. A few peoples' fingerprints are difficult to register even using a thumb, mine included!

We scan all 180 Year 7 on their first morning in school, quite a marathon, but they know they can borrow from day one. It is always a source of great interest and excitement on New Intake evening. The students think it is amazing, and several would like to own it. It has saved a few trees in replacing lost library cards. Brilliant.

Librarian  
South Wolds School

