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OPALS-NA News

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Open Source Automated Library System - North America
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SCOOLS SLS Members

Broome-Tioga
Cayuga-Onondaga
Delaware-Chenango
Greater Southern Tier
Otsego-Northern Catskills
Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga

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SCOOLS Group Pioneers Open Source: *"E pluribus unum"*

Over a decade ago, seven southern tier, New York State School Library Systems pioneered cooperative interlibrary loan services for three hundred schools. Their cooperative database grew to more than 700,000 unique titles and over 3 million library holdings that the directors wanted to streamline. They envisioned using the Internet (the "open source network") to deliver an almost paperless, interlibrary loan service that could conform to the practices of each participating school library system, at a sustainable cost. The consortium developed specifications, evaluated technology alternatives and by consensus, decided to pool their resources to develop an open source solution. The SCOOLS initiative has contributed to the development of one of the most advanced open source projects of its kind. The SCOOLS union catalog manages interlibrary loan requests, monitors responses to prevent duplication, tracks the phases of ILL requests and responses, and includes a packing list / shipping label print feature for ILL responders. In addition to receiving ILL services, school librarians use the database's Z39.50 server protocol to import MARC records and for collection development. **Website:** www.scools.org

East Ramapo Automates 10 Libraries: *District also receives "Project Literacy grant"*

East Ramapo Central School District has implemented an innovative open source program that provides access to Web-based library and instructional resources for students and teachers in ten elementary schools. Students and teachers can explore the library collection of books, safe Websites, and NYS sponsored "NOVEL" databases using any Internet-connected computer at school or home and the program's integrated "federated search." The open source system that the district implemented uses existing technology, saving many tens of thousands of dollars in startup and maintenance costs. This technology platform will help librarians at Fleetwood, Grandview, Hempstead, Margetts and Summit Park, to support "Project Literacy" curriculum goals for teacher effectiveness and improved student literacy.



School Library Systems & OPALS-NA:

Thirteen school library systems creatively cooperate

Thirteen New York State School Library Systems now support open source automation projects. SLS directors developed their initiatives to provide curriculum-sensitive, Web-based, sustainable, technology alternatives for library-media specialists. Projects include the robust "SCOOOLS" interlibrary loans application that serves 300 schools and six SLS regions, individual SLS union catalogs, as well as building level, professional, occupational center and SETRC libraries. Most of these systems developed open source COSER's and have installed Linux servers that deliver Web-based library automation to their schools.

Here are some project summaries:

Broome-Tioga SLS hosts a central server that provides union catalog and building level services to forty-six schools that were converted from a couple of mini-based systems.

Franklin-Essex-Hamilton SLS hosts a union catalog, professional library, and serves twenty schools that were converted from a PC-based system and that formerly used building level servers.

Delaware-Chenango-Madison SLS hosts a union catalog, fourteen schools and a STRC collection that were converted from several systems, or that had never automated.

The following School Library have sponsored similar initiatives: Cayuga-Onondaga, Clinton-Essex, Greater Southern Tier, Oswego, Otsego-Northern Catskills, Rockland, Putnam-Northern Westchester, Southern Westchester, St. Lawrence Lewis, Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga.



OPALS in Special Libraries:

Standards-based automation for parochial, private & special libraries

Although smaller libraries have limited resources, access to and management of their collections requires the sophistication of their larger counterparts. Private schools and special libraries have discovered that open source software integrates XML-MARC, Unicode, Z39.50 client and server, and provides Web-based access and management functions that they could not normally afford. In addition, outsourcing the hosting of their system frees them from having to purchase and maintain a server. OPALS ensures that "no library is left behind."

The following libraries are a sampling of the kinds of libraries that have benefited from this cooperative movement:


Albertus Magnus High School, Rockland / Our Lady of Peace School, Lyndale, NY / Trinity Catholic, Massena, NY / St. Mary's School, Canton, NY / Charles Finney School, Fairport, NY / Woodland Cultural Center, Brampton, Ont. / Hebrew Academy, Cote-St. Luc, Que. /

October 2006 OPALS Updates

By Dan Weeks

Help Pages

Each module of the OPALS program now has a help page of its own.

- Click on the little question mark  in the title header of any page.

Web Links

The Main Menu selection called Web Links has been updated.

1. The first thing you will notice, is that Web Links has been moved from a main menu selection into the Home tab of the main menu.
2. The next improvement, is that the library may place any website that they wish in the list. To set up your new Web Links go to Administration >Preferences from the main menu, then select Web Links List Editor.

Event Bulletin

Another new selection has been added to the Home tab of the main menu. News / Events will allow you to post on line any information important to the library.

- Add or edit information to the page by selecting News/Events List Editor from the Administration >Preferences menu.
- URLs (Internet links) can be added to the page by placing "http://" before the URL. Cut and paste the URL of your chosen site into the News / Events editor.

Library Hours

This Home tab menu option displays the opening and closing times and library days of closure.

- To set up the hours that the page displays, go to >Administration >Preferences >Closing Dates Editor.

Web Links Suggestions

[Can you Do the Dewey?](http://www.thrall.org/dewey/)
<http://www.thrall.org/dewey/>

[The Dewey Decimal Classification : A Multimedia Tour](http://www.oclc.org/dewey/resources/tour/)
<http://www.oclc.org/dewey/resources/tour/>

[United States Telephone Directory : 411.com](http://www.411.com/)
<http://www.411.com/>

[MapQuest](http://www.mapquest.com/)
<http://www.mapquest.com/>

OPALS Mission

"No library left behind"

Search Display

Previous / Next

After searching, and expanding a record, you can view the next or previous expanded record without having to return to the brief citations list. You can also mark an item for a bibliography from either display format.

URI display

The URI (A Uniform Resource Identifier) MARC field 856, now displays above the barcode numbers in the expanded record as a hyperlink. The link will take you to the Internet resource that is identified in the URI field.

Contents Notes

All of the Marc field 505 "Contents Note" subfields now display formatted in the Expanded record.

Accelerated Reader

All of the MARC field 526 "Study Program Information Note" subfields now display in the expanded record.

Bibliography

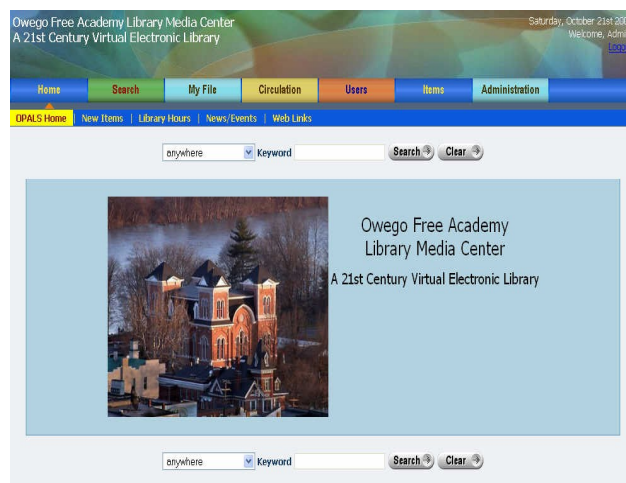
When a bibliography is created, there is now an option to put in a Title and Date.

You may also add a personal note to any of the records displayed.

Now you also have an option to mark items for a bibliography after clicking on a title and viewing the expanded record.

Reserve by barcode

From the Circulation menu the Reserve Tab will allow you to reserve one or many items to a single user by scanning the barcode of the item you wish to reserve.



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