



Case Study – University of Toronto

Overview

The University of Toronto is internationally recognized as one of the most prestigious and innovative universities in the world. With over 30 libraries across three campuses, the U of T Library collection contains over 10 million bound volumes and 70,000 serial titles. Along with a distinguished faculty and extensive academic resources, U of T excels in all areas of teaching and research.

“Over the past 10 years, we have seen a dramatic increase in demand for digital reproductions of books” Anne Dondertman, Assistant Director of the Thomas Fisher Rare Books Library. “The previous methods available for imaging delicate or old books were cumbersome and not conducive to the handling of fragile materials.”

Additionally, the Library is looking at initiatives with the University’s Sustainability Office in order to reduce paper usage and waste. “We are challenged to find ways to offer digital options, particularly to internal staff, in order to increase productivity and decrease paper usage.” states Alfred Cheng, Chief Administration Officer – U of T Libraries.

The Ristech Solution

Ristech Company Inc. was able to provide the University of Toronto the exact solution to their digital access requirements. U of T investigated the **Book2net Kiosk** technology and found it to be a valuable resource in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, one of the largest publicly accessible rare books and manuscripts libraries.

“When Ristech brought the Kiosk for a three day trial, the response we got from end users was effectively all positive” says Alfred Cheng, “We were impressed with the ease of use and quality of output”.

The advantages of the Book2net Kiosk were obvious: high-quality, digital, colour scans in seconds without any excess strain to books and zero operating costs. The Kiosk uses a mere 55 watts, which helps the University maintain its commitment to sustainability as well as save on energy expenses.

“The reception to acquiring the Book2net Kiosk has been very positive, one of the most positive we have ever received”. Says Anne Dondertman, “There have even been letters of support from the faculty. One member has actually designed course material around the utilization of this technology”.



Now and Beyond

The Book2net Kiosk is currently being used mainly by library staff, graduate students and faculty members in the Thomas Fisher Library. The Library has attached a card-operated system to the Kiosk for cost recovery and to allow users self-serve access - freeing library staff to perform other tasks.

“We did not have to create another business process to handle the new machine” says Julian Mitchell, Assistant Project Coordinator. “The Kiosk is a natural extension of systems currently in use at U of T with copy cards.”

As the University of Toronto continues its dedication to learning, the aid of cutting-edge technology such as the Book2net Kiosk will play a valuable role in helping staff, faculty members and researchers digitize and access resources. “We are looking at expanding this technology internally” Mr. Cheng comments.

The University of Toronto Libraries will continue to commit to reducing waste and paper usage. By reducing the need to take photocopies of books and rare materials, the Fisher Library is providing additional services with the Book2net Kiosk. And by doing so, the University of Toronto will continue to be recognized as a leader in innovation and education as well as progress and social responsibility.