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SirsiDynix SchoolRooms Launches in Ohio School District

Shaker Heights City School District pilots SchoolRooms for statewide implementation

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Jan. 30, 2006 – SirsiDynix, the global leader in strategic technology solutions for libraries bringing knowledge to people and communities, announced today the pilot launch of SirsiDynix SchoolRooms™ in Ohio's Shaker Heights City School District. Developed in cooperation with INFOhio, the Information Network for Ohio Schools, SchoolRooms is a comprehensive and integrated multimedia online discovery portal for K-12 schools. INFOhio selected Shaker Heights to test SchoolRooms because of the district's outstanding schools and dynamic library/media program.

To ensure a user-friendly design, SirsiDynix is partnering with Kent State University's School of Library and Information Science to conduct usability testing with students, educators and parents. Insights gained from this testing into the information-seeking patterns of school-age children will be incorporated into SchoolRooms.

Kathy Fredrick, director of library, media, and instructional technology at Shaker Heights City School District, said, "I'm excited about the SchoolRooms project because I see it as a tool that is easy to navigate and packed with information sources tied to school goals and student achievement. All this in a package that invites the learner to find the resources they need to create their understanding of our world. It's the antidote to Google-overload."

Based on the SirsiDynix Rooms™ content management platform, SchoolRooms combines teacher-selected, standards-based content with student-friendly software to promote exploration and learning and to supplement any curriculum. Content is accessed through virtual Rooms that help students discover information, provide educators with access to quality materials and enable parents to find appropriate resources for improving their children's education. SirsiDynix and INFOhio worked together closely to identify credentialed educators and interested parents to select, design and test SchoolRooms content, certifying that it meets national and state education standards. Two other educators from Shaker Heights City School District – Kristen Roope, library media specialist, and Michael Sears, social studies teacher – joined Fredrick in helping develop SchoolRooms content.

"INFOhio is very pleased to work together with SirsiDynix in the development of the SchoolRooms product," said Theresa M. Fredericka, INFOhio executive director. "We believe this will provide the K-12 community with reliable and authoritative resources for school assignments and research while meeting national and state education standards. It is our hope that students will be able to discover information in a new and more engaging way, teachers and librarians will have access to a variety of high quality resources from one easy and convenient search entry, and parents will be able to find appropriate resources to improve their child's education."

Angus Carroll, SirsiDynix chief marketing officer, said, "The launch of SchoolRooms in Shaker Heights attests to the strength of SirsiDynix's commitment to partner with our clients to create a future in which libraries play a more strategic role within their communities – meeting the real needs of real people by helping them make sense of the vast world of information. The launch also demonstrates the vital role that librarians play in K-12 education. Librarians at INFOhio, Shaker Heights City School District and throughout Ohio have done an amazing job of collaborating with educators, parents and students to develop a model information discovery solution for schoolchildren. INFOhio's plans to eventually launch SchoolRooms statewide will help bring learning to life for Ohio's 1.1 million K-12 students."

To further promote student exploration and discovery, SchoolRooms integrates multimedia content from Helicon Publishing, leading reference content creator and publisher of the *Hutchinson Encyclopedia* and *Hutchinson Children's Encyclopedia* and Dorling Kindersley, internationally acclaimed publisher of the Children's *Eyewitness Series*, specializing in the creation of high-quality, illustrated information books and online resources for children and adults. Drawing on more than 15 million words of content from Helicon and Dorling Kindersley, SchoolRooms incorporates animations, photos, videos, charts and other images.

For more information about SchoolRooms, visit www.schoolrooms.net.

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About SirsiDynix

SirsiDynix is the global leader in strategic technology solutions for libraries – vital institutions whose primary mission is to make sense of the vast world of information for people and communities. This is an exciting role as libraries assist people in discovering and using knowledge, resources and other valuable content for their educations, jobs and entertainment. In concert with key industry partners, SirsiDynix supports this strategic role for libraries by offering a comprehensive integrated suite of technology solutions for improving the internal productivity of libraries and enhancing their capabilities for meeting the needs of people and communities. SirsiDynix has approximately 4,000 library and consortia clients, serving more than 200 million people through more than 20,000 library outlets in the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific. For more information, please see www.sirsidynix.com.

About INFOhio

INFOhio, the Information Network for Ohio Schools, a virtual K-12 library, transforms teaching and learning by connecting educational resources with the power of information technology. INFOhio provides educational services that can be linked to student achievement and performance, standards-based instruction, teacher effectiveness and technological competency. INFOhio's components include electronic resources for schools, instructional development for teachers, library automation, media booking and a statewide union catalog. For more information, please see www.infohio.org.

About Shaker Heights City School District

The Shaker Heights City School District in Ohio includes the city of Shaker Heights and a small portion of Cleveland, encompassing about 7.5 square miles. Long known for the beauty of its neighborhoods and parklands, Shaker Heights is home to 30,000 residents of diverse cultural backgrounds and is renowned for its commitment to educational excellence and close proximity to Cleveland's University Circle, the home of world-class hospitals and museums, The Cleveland Orchestra and Case Western Reserve University. The Shaker Heights schools currently serve about 5,600 students in eight buildings: five K-4 elementary schools (Boulevard, Fernway, Lomond, Mercer and Onaway), Woodbury Elementary School (grades 5 and 6), Shaker Middle School (grades 7 and 8) and Shaker Heights High School (grades 9-12). For more information, please see www.shaker.org.