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Marshalltown Public Library Moves to New Eco-friendly Building

“Thinking Green” and SaaS Find a Home in Marshalltown, Iowa

PROVO, UT, March 11, 2009 – SirsiDynix, the global leader in strategic technology solutions for libraries, congratulates Marshalltown Public Library on their recent switch to an eco-friendly library and SirsiDynix Software as a Service (SaaS).

Recently, Marshalltown moved into their new home: a state-of-the-art facility built upon the Leadership in Engineering and Design (LEED) principles of green construction and design. The library’s past home was built in 1903 and lacked the size and efficiency of flow that librarians knew was important for better serving patrons. In addition, the library needed space for more internet stations, meetings and arts and cultural programs.

To fund the building, voters approved a bond referendum by over 70%, the library received a grant from Vision Iowa and librarians conducted aggressive fundraising. The land was donated and was deemed clear of any environmental issues. In fact, the plot of donated land had previously been a parking lot, meaning no existing plantings or green areas were destroyed in the building of the library. In addition, the old asphalt and concrete were recycled, with the old asphalt being used as a base for the new library parking lot.

The building uses variable lighting, which monitors the need for light and adjusts accordingly. Water run-off was planned carefully to save and recycle water, and materials such as bamboo shelving, PaperStone™ countertops (100% post consumer waste), and photovoltaic solar array panels add to the library’s eco-friendly highlights. The library is in the process of certifying as the first library in Iowa to be LEED silver-rated.

Many believe SaaS is eco-friendly due to lower power consumption. Marshalltown switched to a SirsiDynix SaaS solution to make the move easier and to save time and money in everyday operations. Carole Winkleblack, Library Director at Marshalltown, stated, “The building project was so large and overwhelming, that we didn’t feel we had time to deal with IT issues such as cataloging and data backups. It made a lot of sense to go with SirsiDynix SaaS. Once we moved into the building, we just plugged in, entered the IP address and were off and running! It’s also much easier when we don’t have to be manually doing something to our server.” She adds, “Some libraries balk at the cost, but if you extend it out over five years, you find it’s more cost friendly than a non-SaaS ILS.”

Marshalltown Public Library experienced a 37% increase in circulation recently and expects a sustained 30% increase in the coming months.

For more information about SaaS solutions at SirsiDynix, contact a SirsiDynix sales professional at 1-800-288-8020, ext. 1 or sales@sirsidyndix.com.

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About SirsiDynix

SirsiDynix helps libraries succeed. 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. 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 300 million people through more than 20,000 library outlets in the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific. For more information, please visit www.sirsidynix.com.

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