



CASE STUDY

Looking to the Future with Jessamine County Public Library

Inventive Applications of New Technology to Expand
Services and Create Growth.



SirsiDynix®



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Jessamine County Public Library has roots that go back more than a century into Kentucky's history. Originally a literary society known as the Acme Book Club, the library began in 1896 with a collection of 600 books.

In 1897, the organization grew further through the generosity of a local resident who aided in the founding of the library by bequeathing a small fortune "for the purpose of establishing a public circulating library." The library grew and officially became Jessamine County Public Library in 1996.

Located 13 miles south of Lexington, in the heart of the Bluegrass, JCPL serves a population of around 50,000. Jessamine is a largely rural county but maintains a growing industrial base. Within this context JCPL, a medium-sized, single branch library system, consistently ranks among the top libraries in the state.

JCPL is a proactive library, with a visionary staff. The leaders of the library make goals for their organization and have a record of following through to achieve astounding results. In recent years, JCPL wanted to increase the

services they offered to their community and extend the reach of their library's offerings. They have an ongoing mission to be a modern library that implements the latest technology and offers premier services to their patrons.

Goal: Increase services offered to the community, extend reach of their library, continually offer and implement the latest technology.



Photo: Jessamine County Public Library - Recording Studio

Library in a Box

A SirsiDynix customer since 1999, JCPL has drawn creatively on their BLUEcloud technology to expand the geographic region they serve in Jessamine County. One of their original ideas has been the Library in a Box program. Library in a Box is a service that delivers books to people who do not live near the library. Partnering with local business sites JCPL has created three offsite locations for item pickup and drop off. These remote sites require no more of

their partners than a few square feet of space and a power outlet. The Library in a Box program is made possible by Symphony's hold system. Through their easily accessible online accounts, patrons can log on and place a hold or call the library. Books are delivered to the Library in a Box sites three times per week and patrons can pick up and return items at their leisure.

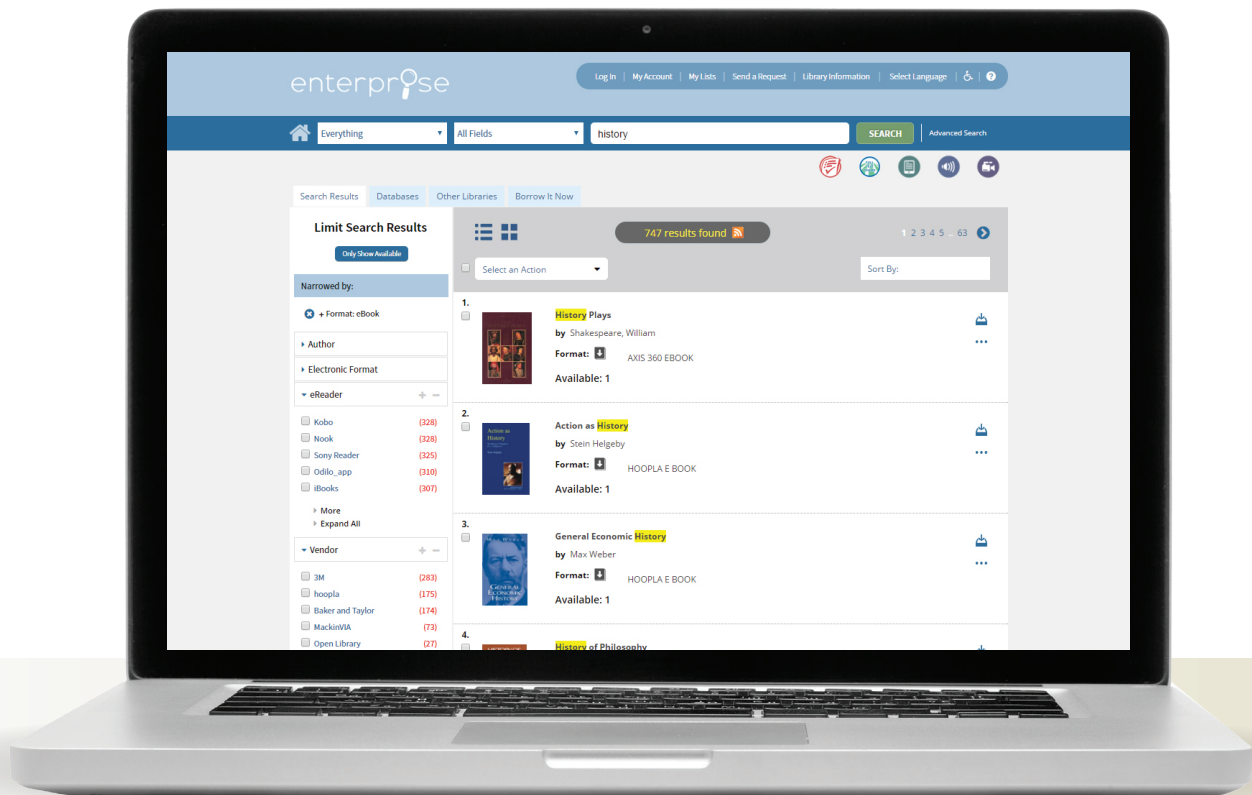


SirsiDynix's eResource Central enables JCPL to offer simplified access to digital content directly through their catalog.

eResource Central

JCPL also offers Library Link, a program that delivers materials to homebound residents. Much like Library in a Box, the Library Link program exercises Symphony's hold system to supply resources to patrons outside of the physical space of the library. Through Library Link, volunteers bring personally selected library materials to participants and also aid these patrons in accessing

online resources, including eBooks and eAudiobooks. SirsiDynix's eResource Central enables Jessamine to offer simplified access to digital content directly through their catalog. The Library in a Box and Library Link programs have helped Jessamine accomplish their goal to expand the geographic reach of their offerings and the user-base they serve.



Enterprise shown



Digital Resources

A further initiative to develop the Jessamine County Public Library's offerings was the expansion of their digital resources. Capitalizing on the simplicity of eResource Central, SirsiDynix has enabled JCPL to deliver physical and digital discovery in a single interface. eRC extends the reach of the library's electronic catalog, offering patrons access to the vast digital collections of Overdrive, hoopla, Axis 360, OneClick Digital, Zinio, and

more. The ease of eRC's single log-in access and one-click downloading has led JCPL to become a library leader in digital resource offerings.

The implementation of eRC, in tandem with their content delivery services, has grown JCPL's circulation to astounding proportions. Over a period of six years JCPL doubled their annual circulation from 300,000 to 600,000.

The Staff

JCPL has been a forward-thinking library for many years. Their staff continually seeks to identify, embrace, and adopt new technology quickly. In keeping with their pioneering approach, library staff applied an inventive attitudes to their programming. Until recently Jessamine offered no programs for seniors or teens; the only programming was for children and adults through a part time adult programmer. Following surveys, the staff diversified programming and promoted their offerings with increased marketing. They began to serve more age groups

and host more programs. The team's creative, new ideas include events like "Virtual Field Trips," in which patrons are taken on virtual tours of places they might otherwise never go. JCPL's adventures have taken patrons to places like the Great Barrier Reef, where the attendees journeyed with a scuba diver to look at coral and aquatic life off the coast of Australia. These HiDef interactive experiences are made possible by connecting to Internet 2 through a partnership with Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Bottom photo: Jessamine County Public Library reopening



Imaginative programming is only a small reflection of Jessamine's progressive attitude and their efforts to remain drivers on the forefront of technology. Technology Librarian David Powell credits Jessamine's success to the unique approach of the library's staff. "We embrace technology," says Powell, "and we adopt technology very quickly. We were about the fifth public library to get a 3D printer. We have a sorter, a laser printer. Our systems went to all self-

check relatively early. What we do is we assess whether technology is really worth the cost. If it is, we pursue it right away."

Executive Director Ron Critchfield feels that the staff does not fear new technology because rather than focusing on the stresses of changing technology, they focus on how they can serve their community. Our approach, he explains, is that "we care, we dare, we share, and then we care some more."



Photos: Jessamine County Public Library

Expanding on their approach, Critchfield attributes JCPL's success to their high expectations for technology—in that they shouldn't have to think about their technology. "We're a creative library,"

explained Critchfield. "We expect our ILS to be as creative as we want to be." Jessamine expects its technology to be dependable and intuitive.

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“The Sirsi ILS is ubiquitous in nature 99% of the time, which is what we want it to be. We want it to run without worry. Especially with partners. You want the confidence that it’s going to work seamlessly. And it does! Reliability is important.”

Ron Critchfield
Executive Director

Expanding services

With the support of SirsiDynix's dependable solutions and the creative ideas of their inspired staff, JCPL has transformed their library. They increased programs, service, and outreach. They grew so much that they had to expand. Library programming, with 40,000 attendees per year, was so popular that

it constantly monopolized conference rooms so patrons couldn't use them. Forced to adapt their physical location to the demands of the community, they took on a renovation, but even while residing in a temporary location, JCPL still circulated 500,000 items.

Right and left bottom photos: Jessamine County Public Library



From their proactive efforts to serve its community, JCPL has achieved remarkable growth. Their beautiful new building—twice the size of the old one—is a testament to the library’s devoted service. Through caring, daring, sharing,

and caring some more, Jessamine County Public Library provides engaging services to its community and stands as a frontrunner among Kentucky libraries and public libraries of the future.





Get in touch!

Would you be open to speaking with someone at SirsiDynix to learn more about eResource Central? Contact us today!



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