

## CASE STUDY

# *Expanding Library Capabilities*

How Brigham Young University Uses SirsiDynix APIs and Web Services to Support Powerful Custom Applications



SirsiDynix®





Cover page photo: BYU Campus from the air | Top photo: Students passing the Harold B. Lee Library

## CASE STUDY

*Ranked among the best university libraries in the United States<sup>1</sup>, the Harold B. Lee Library (HBLL) at Brigham Young University houses over 6 million items across 98 miles of shelving. Over 10,000 patrons enter the HBLL each day, from students and professors to alumni and community members.*

With so many users to serve, the HBLL requires powerful library automation software. BYU relies on SirsiDynix Symphony and BLUECloud to support their collection. Symphony is a powerful,

dependable ILS, but in order to get exactly the solution they want, BYU sometimes chooses to make their own applications. That's where SirsiDynix APIs and web services come in.

*The openness and flexibility of the SirsiDynix ILS is important to the BYU team, as they work hard to create their own customized applications to better serve their students and faculty.*



## Open & Flexible

When asked about his favorite part of Symphony, HBLL software engineer Scott Bertagnole responded, "How open it is, first through the APIs and now through web services."

The openness and flexibility of the SirsiDynix ILS is important to the BYU team, as they work hard to create their own customized applications to better serve their students and faculty. Bertagnole works with a small team of programmers at the HBLL who design, create, and maintain applications that expand the traditional library experience. An important part of their work is integrating data from many different library and campus software solutions and "making sure all these applications play nice with each other."

BYU at night





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*We really feel that bringing all this data together makes our resources much more discoverable and meaningful to our patrons. So we rely heavily on Symphony APIs in our search engine. They allow us to leverage our ILS data as a key ingredient in this much larger recipe.”*

Scott Bertagnole

Harold B. Lee Library software engineer

## Search and Account Customization

Some of the HBLL's custom applications are anything but typical. Perhaps their most impressive creation is their fully customized search engine, which harvests bibliographic and authority records from SirsiDynix Symphony and enriches them with data available from Google, Bing, TMDB and other online sources.

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BYU Students Cross the Quad Next to the Harold B. Lee Library

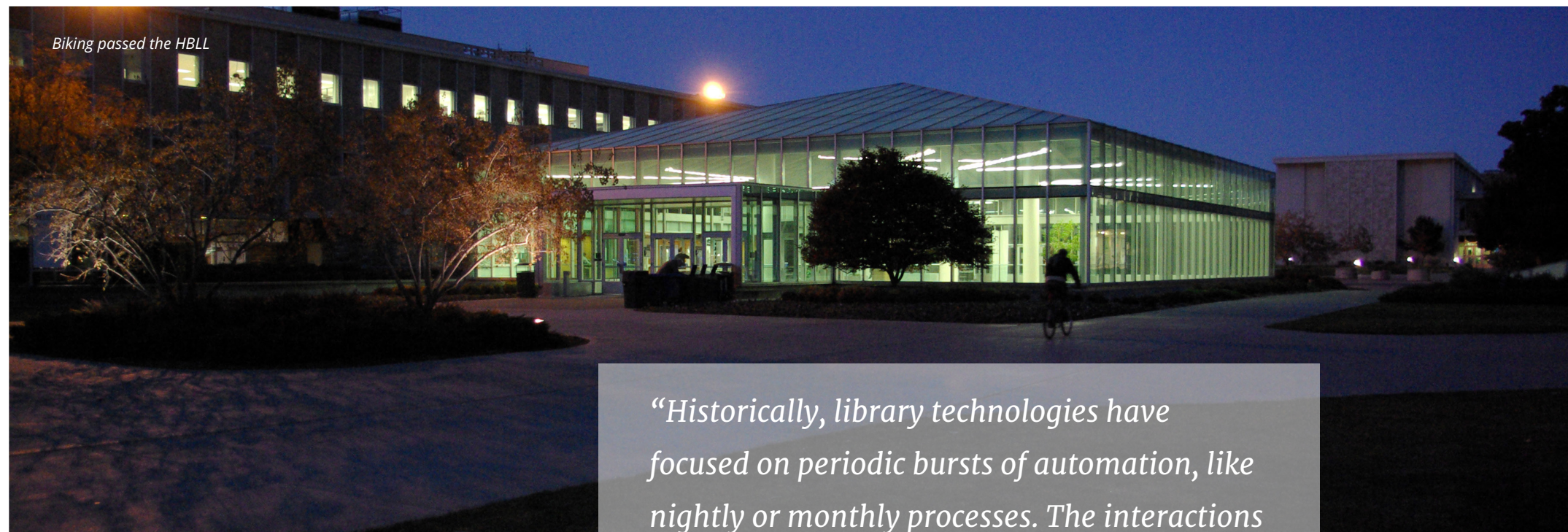




BYU Law Library



Biking passed the HBLL



*“Historically, library technologies have focused on periodic bursts of automation, like nightly or monthly processes. The interactions with our data have to be more real-time, and **that’s the strength of Web Services.**”*

In addition to their search engine, BYU has also built a custom My Account page for their students and faculty. This unique application blends circulation data from the ILS with data from BYU’s other campus software to provide a powerful, unified source of account information. “Not only can we show our students what they have checked out, but we can display additional resources such as ILL

requests and course reserve materials, and we can customize the experience for each student based on what classes they are currently taking.” Like the search engine, the My Account page relies heavily on the openness and power of SirsiDynix APIs and web services to bring library data beyond the traditional boundaries of the ILS.

## Stability & Speed

As BYU has integrated ILS data into more applications, the stability and speed of the APIs and web services has become increasingly important. The HBLL programming

team happily reported that the APIs and web services have no problem handling large volumes of requests each day. In addition to appreciating the capability of the APIs themselves, Bertagnole noted his appreciation for the SirsiDynix team that built them. “Brent Thompson [Product Manager over Web Services] has been very responsive to the requests we’ve made. When we ask for a feature that we’ve been missing, the team has been very good about

making it happen.” And what is the ultimate goal with APIs and web services? Using Symphony and BLUECloud’s open structure, Bertagnole and his team are transitioning the HBLL to a new model of library automation. “Historically, library technologies have focused on periodic bursts of automation, like nightly or monthly processes,” Bertagnole said. “The interactions with our data have to be more real-time, and that’s the strength of Web Services.”





## *Get in touch!*

Would you be open to speaking with someone at SirsiDynix? Would you like to see our Web Services and APIs in action? We'd love to show you around our offerings so you can see what SirsiDynix can do for you and your library. Contact us today!



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