

Scanning! A beautiful word in Jason Maitland's vocabulary

Jason Maitland is the Education Technology Specialist for Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District (CSSD) No.1 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Jason's district uses Desire 2 Learn as an on-line content provider. One of the features of the D2L on-line platform is to allow the client to build a learning repository, a place to effectively manage and share content across institutions, programs, and courses.

When WYNN 5.0 came out, Jason tested out the capabilities of D2L and WYNN to work together to provide reading materials for his learning disabled (LD) student population in a format that would enhance the students' comprehension of these materials. All I can say is WOW," exclaimed Jason. "The power of this collaboration is fantastic!"

CSSD has been successfully using WYNN for five years. Teachers and students alike love the tools that WYNN provides to enhance learning for the special needs students. The tools, coupled with their ease of use, made the software a real WYNNer for all. Once Jason unleashed the power of digitized books, everyone was even more impressed with WYNN!

Jason explained that students had been scanning simple materials, and the teachers some of the more complex materials. When they observed how great the improvement was in the success rate of student reading, Jason realized that he really needed to find a faster way of getting books scanned.

"We are digitizing books as fast as we can and putting them in WYNN format," says Jason. "We currently have 325 novels and 15 textbooks scanned and edited."

Now how do these materials get into the hands of the students? Adhering to the copyright laws of Canada, Jason worked with Desire 2 Learn to create a Learning Object Repository. This is a special digital format for use with the WYNN program.

It is designed for individuals with a perceptual disability.

"It was a natural extension to start putting our digital repository of text into the LOR," explained Jason. "Once the repository was established, students were given access to the books. They can click on the link to the book and it opens directly into WYNN."

Six hundred LD students now have access to all of the titles with one click of a mouse! And it automatically opens in their reading preferences. "I can't stop smiling!" exclaims Jason.

To make sure copyright laws are not violated, each eligible student is given a password that allows entry into the teacher's coursework and then access to the assigned material. The materials are never downloaded. They are accessed via a link on the D2L site that has a huge storage space for on-line materials. For the youngest students, materials are scanned and stored on thumb drives to be given only to the appropriate students. Materials only go to those who have the right given to them by the copyright law.

The district uses D2L and the thumb drives as opposed to a networked environment specifically to avoid anyone being able to access materials for which they do not qualify.

Jason is very proud of the fact that the district publishes a catalog each month that updates the books that have been scanned, edited, and are ready for use. If teachers don't find what they need in the catalog, they may put in a request for it and, once it is approved, it will be processed. The district presently has 100 more books scanned and in the process of being edited. The teachers are thrilled that there is such a variety of materials for their LD students. They feel they can find the appropriate materials for their students on-line right in their own Learning Repository!

Many of you are probably curious about how all this scanning and editing are being accomplished. Jason, a paid employee, and some volunteers take on this job. Jason says



that by using a Fujitsu fi-4340C high speed scanner, he is able to scan a large number of pages very quickly .

The district has just hired another part-time employee to help with the editing. CSSD feels they are well on the way to creating and maintaining a
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wonderful educational resource for their LD students.

Congratulations to The Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District No.1 for working together to achieve their goal of providing a quality education to all of their students!

For WYNN scanning information:

For the most up-to-date list of compatible scanners, please visit our Freedom Scientific Web site: <www.freedomscientific.com/LSG/support/scanner_support.asp> .

Tips for scanning can also be found on our Web site in Scanner Assistance: <www.freedomscientific.com/LSG/products/wynn_tipsheets.asp>.

For more information, contact Freedom Scientific Blind/Low Vision Group, 11800 31st Court North, St. Petersburg, FL 33716-1805; Phone: 800-444-4443 (within US), 727-803-8000 (worldwide); Fax: 727-803-8001; Web site: <www.freedomscientific.com>.