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Selected, interactive pages from this issue

the journal for educators

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inspiring dynamic 21C learning

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innovative learning practices
Area of Study: *Discovery*

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New library system

to support future learning in DEC schools



Colleen Foley, A/Leader, Information and Online Services, Learning Systems, Public Schools NSW, introduces an exciting new DEC library system project, on behalf of the Project Team.

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Libraries for future schools

A new library system is being provided for all NSW Department of Education and Communities, in keeping with the department's commitment to great teaching and inspired learning for every student and every school. Detailed information is available for department teachers on the [School Library system](#)



intranet site. The project is a partnership led by Information Technology Directorate, supported by a Library Project Working Group from Learning Systems. Ongoing consultation with stakeholders will be part of the implementation process. The new system will provide powerful opportunities for teacher librarians to collaborate with their teachers and students in curriculum delivery. The implementation period will commence in late 2014 and conclude in late 2016.

The new system, *Oliver*, is a web-based resource management system provided by Softlink Australia Pty Ltd. The successful vendor was selected in an open tender process. *Oliver* offers an interactive experience for all users, facilitating engagement with digital and physical resources. It also offers the opportunity for anywhere, anytime access to a full range of digital media, including ebooks. Students, teachers, other school staff and school community members will be able to access *Oliver* from school and home. Access will be easily available through the department's student and staff portals.



Sample *Oliver* home page

For students

Interactive options available in *Oliver* for students include the ability to:

- access digital resources, including ebooks from their own device
- check loans, make reservations, request resources
- get alerts about the latest resources available aligned with their interests
- rate resources
- publish reviews of resources to share with other students and users
- access Premier Reading Challenge lists, and resource lists based on specific courses or themes
- save searches and produce bibliographies.

For teachers

Oliver offers an engaging hub for learning, with new and exciting opportunities for teachers and teacher librarians to work together. Additional services available to teachers include:

- opportunities for innovative approaches to learning and teaching using the library system
- the ability to deliver digital content to all students online, a feature of great benefit to distance education students
- the ability to have project and course materials catalogued and accessible with full interactive versions available to all users



Capacity for learning anywhere, anytime, any computer or device



Engaging students in reading and learning

- integration capability with other content providers (ebooks, video, audio)
- concurrent searches of physical and digital materials across libraries
- federated searching for freely available databases, and subscription services (e.g. Encyclopaedia Britannica, World Book)
- the ability to work with library staff to create course or thematic bibliographies and make available with embedded links.

For school library staff

The teacher librarian and library staff manage a gateway to anywhere, anytime learning. Options include the capacity to:

- manage digital and physical resources effectively and efficiently
- check websites automatically and report where the URL has changed or been removed
- provide a *master library* of grouped catalogue records for eresources and export them to *child* (individual school) libraries. For example, a group of websites relating to Book Week, Harmony Day, or Area of study can be developed.
- host ebook platforms that can publish locally- or DEC-produced materials in print, audio, video or other digital formats
- integrate with other learning management systems, for example, *Moodle*
- automate borrower updates and borrower notifications
- import catalogue records quickly and easily using the Z-cataloguing (SCIS cataloguing) feature.

Exciting integrations

The capacity to deliver digital content online anytime, anywhere is exciting. Department schools will have enhanced support for equity, greater choice when

selecting resources, and a sustainable library based resources infrastructure for future learning. Integrations will include the PRC, and other possibilities such as the online [resource reviews](#) database, *NSW DEC Scootle* and [TaLe](#).

All schools will have the capacity to integrate ebooks of their choice. Key findings of the department's ground breaking 2012 *Ebooks test project* were that:

- focused reading activities with ebooks stimulate additional engagement and interest in reading
- explicit engagement with ebooks stimulates further reading, including of print books.

View the *Ebooks for learning and leisure test project report*, and articles by [Colleen Foley](#) and [Wendy Dawson](#) whose students created ebooks.

Learning benefits

The new library system will provide significant opportunities for enhanced learning experiences, teaching support, and targeted learning gains. The next article in this series will focus on

leveraging the web-enabled *Oliver* to provide meaningful evidence of your students' learning.

More information

The latest information is available on the [School library system](#) intranet page. For additional queries email SLSPROJECTQUERIES@DET.NSW.EDU.AU.



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Primary school students enjoy reading and creating ebooks

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