

# Oliver library system migration journey



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## Meeting the challenge

In 2015, the NSW Department of Education committed to the implementation of a new library system for all public schools. Following a successful tender process, Softlink Pty Ltd worked closely with the department to deploy the Oliver library system to all schools. Already, 2,243 school libraries successfully migrated from the long-standing Oasis library management system to the new web-based system (intranet).

The collaboration between Softlink, School Operations and Performance Directorate and Information Technology Directorate set the standard for future projects. The team has navigated a range of challenges and delivered on time, and on budget, with minimal disruption.

### Oliver support for teachers and students

Oliver library system provides teacher librarians with an advanced system for the successful management of their libraries, as well as a very important pathway for future-focused learning.

Students now have 'anytime' access to an array of information that allows them to critically learn information literacy skills, collaborate effectively and participate in 21st century learning. They can tap into international and national resource collections, access ebooks, and build their own learning journeys. The power students can now exercise over their reading choices and sharing their opinions with others is valued by students and teachers.

### Oliver training and support

Throughout the implementation process of the project, teacher librarians and their staff were supported by a team of dedicated Library Information Officers through a 15 week cycle, ensuring that the migration was successful and seamless. All teacher librarians participated in face-to-face training via Adobe Connect. Advanced training courses were also conducted with high enrolment numbers. The team recently presented via Adobe Connect a two hour stocktake course to over 2,000 teacher librarians and their staff over a 2-day period.

### Celebration

To mark this milestone, a celebratory event, held on 30 March 2017 at John Edmondson High School, was hosted by teacher librarian, Mandy Kirk, Principal, Leon Weatherstone, library staff and students. The event provided an opportunity to acknowledge the success of the School Library Project and their partners in delivering such a beneficial program. This storify showcases the tweets that were streamed live throughout the event.



**Celebrating the successful partnership at John Edmondson High School**

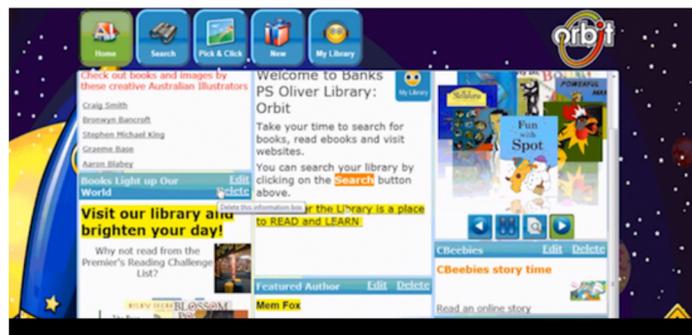
### Banks Public School – case study

Guests at the event experienced one primary school's journey to introduce Oliver to its students. Julie Grazotis, teacher librarian at Banks Public School, engaged students with print and digital media to form a portrait of themselves as readers using the new school library system, Oliver and the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC).



**Oliver – A Journey from Computer to Book to Reading by Filmpond**

At Banks Public School the Oliver library system guides students to explore the library resources and to make informed choices about their reading. Students use Oliver to select texts from the PRC to engage with, review and add to reading lists. Flexible learning spaces provide students with opportunities to work individually or collaboratively. Students access the Oliver interface Orbit to search the catalogue and customise their interface.



**Oliver's Orbit interface**

As students select books, they are encouraged to be more critical about their reading choices and to share their opinions with others. Using emotive and persuasive language, students compose book reviews to share with other students within Orbit. Students draw on their knowledge of books, their opinions and preferences to work collaboratively to construct stage appropriate reading lists.

Julie Grazotis acknowledges that the students at Banks Public School are confident and proficient users of Oliver for borrowing, searching and research. The functions and features of Oliver can be applied to the syllabus, especially in English. Students develop skills in persuasive language, point-of-view and critical thinking. Oliver provides students and teachers with a valuable port of communication to connect with information and literature.

### Digital breakout

One of the highlights of this celebration was Mandy Kirk's lesson for Year 7 students that showcased the teaching and learning potential of Oliver. Mandy presented a 'Digital breakout' activity called Oliver Twist. The activity was developed using the software Breakout EDU digital that provided the framework for a game-based scenario. Using the Oliver library management system, students were required to solve a series of problems to unlock a number of codes that would ultimately enable the students to establish where the character Oliver was enjoying a holiday.



**Year 7 students participating in a Digital breakout activity**

Students searched the catalogue to gather information needed to solve a number of puzzles. The puzzles involved identifying cataloguing subjects, Dewey numbers, book titles, and solving pictograms. Students worked collaboratively as a group to solve the mystery.

This activity engaged students in a task that was authentic, relevant and enjoyable. They applied critical thinking and problem solving skills.



**Students working collaboratively to solve the Oliver Twist mystery**

### Share the learning

Oliver is much more than a library management system. For all NSW public schools, Oliver is a valuable teaching and learning tool that engages students to access information and develop critical reading choices.

Teacher librarians are encouraged to share their teaching strategies and ideas as they build their confidence in using the extensive features of Oliver. The department social media group, SLS forum in Yammer, is an ideal portal for the sharing of these ideas. This forum can be access through the staff portal.