



Barnard College Library

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About Barnard College and the Library

Since 1889, Barnard College has been one of the country’s most distinguished liberal arts colleges for women. Located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, right next to Columbia University, the beautiful four-acre campus has graduated generations of leaders in the arts, business, government, and science. Originally founded as one of the few places where women could get the same rigorous education as men, it continues to offer one of the most prestigious, single-sex educational experiences in the world.

Barnard Library and Academic Information Services boasts a collection of more than 300,000 volumes with a special emphasis in women’s studies, dance, art, and literature. The library also houses a collection of academic journals, periodicals, and an impressive media collection of over 3,000 video and 8,000 audio recordings.

Particularly unique is the library’s Zines Collection with over 2,000 self-publications available for research and lending, with a strong focus on personal and political writings and art from urban women, especially New Yorkers and women of color. Started in 2003 with an initial budget of just \$500, the collection is the largest library of zines – short for magazines or fanzines – and the first to be cataloged in the Online Computer Library Center.



CASE STUDY

Scannx Book ScanCenter Offers Consistency, Convenience

When Barnard Library decided to upgrade from a desktop scanner linked to a computer terminal, they looked to their neighbor and partner, Columbia University. “Our colleagues at Columbia were using them and had a good experience,” said Lisa Norberg, dean of the Library and Academic Information Services at Barnard. “We were looking for a user-friendly solution that the students could use without a lot of help, and that didn’t require a great deal of staff support. That was our prime motivation.”

Scannx Book ScanCenter, with its integrated 15” touchscreen and large book-edge scanning bed, was an instant hit. “The students love the simplicity of the interface with the touch screen,” said Norberg. “And we really appreciate the way the technology has kept up with the students’ preference for mobile devices.”

By the following semester, with students lined up to use the Book ScanCenter, Barnard purchased a second unit. Both are located near the reserved materials, which are among the most frequently scanned materials. Students prefer having electronic access to supplemental materials, documents, chapters, and passages they may need for research papers and presentations.

“As an undergraduate library, having quick and easy access to our reserved reading is so important,” said Norberg. The Scannx Book ScanCenter “has really transformed our reserved space.”

The scanners also see heavy use from the library’s large collection of art books, which are often large and heavy, making a digital scan a welcome alternative. It is also a perfect fit for the Zine Library, with its one-of-a-kind and fragile items.

Less Printing For A Better Environment

Another benefit of the Scannx Book ScanCenter is that the library goes through a lot less paper. “It significantly reduced the amount of printing and copying the



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students are doing,” said Norberg. “There is a cost savings, but it’s also saving a lot the wear and tear on the environment.”

Barnard is strongly committed to conservation and working to reduce paper consumption. The students already have a quota of 100 sheets per week, with surcharges for extra printed pages or photocopies, making free scans at the Book ScanCenter kiosks a better choice. Norberg expects this technology to eventually replace photocopiers, which has already started at Barnard. Norberg thinks exposure to the Scannx Book ScanCenter will lead to increased adoption.

“I would definitely recommend it to my colleagues,” she said. “It’s affordable. It’s user-friendly. It’s the fastest, easiest way for our staff to scan items from our archives and quickly e-mail them. We love it.”