



Bucks County Community College

"It's been a paper-saving, easy-to-use solution that requires very little staff help, which is especially helpful in the fall and spring semesters when we are very busy. For students, it's nice to have an electronic copy for their records, and to be able to collaborate with others by sending documents electronically."

– Linda McCann, director of Library Services

About Bucks County Community College

Since 1964, Bucks County Community College in southeastern Pennsylvania has offered an affordable two-year college education to the area's growing population. It enables area residents to take a first step toward a bachelor's degree, get a certificate to launch a new career, or return again and again for a lifetime of learning. Most graduates transfer from the associate degree program to a four-year college. The community college has smaller campuses in Bristol and Perkasio, but the main 200-acre campus is located in Newtown, where the 40-year-old library was renovated to foster greater collaboration between students and staff and offer more flexible spaces for today's learners.

Scannx at Bucks Library: Less paper, more collaboration

The new library also featured a Scannx Book ScanCenter, a self-service book and document scanning solution that pairs an intuitive 15" touchscreen with an 11"x15" book-edge scanner and next-generation cloud-based document management.

According to Linda McCann, director of Library Services at Bucks, today's students are working more on group projects, using e-books, and making a lot of PowerPoint presentations. Instead of charging for printing, Bucks charges a flat



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technology fee that allowed students to print whatever they want. The result was students printing multiple copies of presentations, class notes, and even whole book chapters to share with their group.

“We were going through a lot of printer paper, both at the library and the college,” McCann said. When she heard about the Scannx Book ScanCenter at nearby Delaware Valley College, she went to see it for herself. The demonstration convinced her to buy two.

“Everybody loves it,” said McCann. Now, students have a paperless option that is free. They can scan periodicals that can’t be checked out and e-mail themselves the articles or save them to a USB drive. They can also make one quick scan of their notes or project materials and e-mail them to everyone in their group at the same time. They can even scan papers to Google Docs so their whole team can collaborate electronically. Initially, less were scanning documents to iPads or smartphones, but that will change as those technologies become more affordable.

With tightening budgets and the college’s sustainability initiative, McCann says she’s “been trying to go as paperless as possible.”

Faxing, Repairing, and Inviting

Students aren’t the only ones using the Scannx Book ScanCenter. The staff has also found it invaluable. McCann uses it to fax documents, too. She started when the regular fax machine broke, but she’s never gone back. “It just makes a lot more sense to me, because I have a record of what I sent that includes the actual document as a scan.”

The library even uses it to repair books. “Sometimes, we’ll have an older book missing a page, or a student will tear out three pages of literary criticism they need,” she said. A quick scan of the missing pages from another volume can be printed out and inserted into the damaged book. It’s not something they do often, but repairing damaged books makes McCann really appreciate the beveled book-edge



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design of the Scannx Book ScanCenter, which protects the book spine from damage.

Mostly, McCann likes how easy the Scannx Book ScanCenter is to use. Before, when students wanted to scan materials, they were sent to the Technology Learning Center to use a flatbed scanner attached to a desktop computer. They almost always needed help, and the Learning Center isn't always staffed. In contrast, the Scannx Book ScanCenter has large easy-to-read buttons on a touchscreen that guides users through each step, helps them choose a file format, adjust image quality and color depth, crop the image, and send or save the scan to a printer, USB, fax, Google Docs, or a mobile device.

"It's self-explanatory and very easy to use," said McCann. "I've found that very few people need any assistance at all. It's been a huge success."