



## LaGrange College

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– Loren Pinkerman, director of the Frank & Laura Lewis Library

### About LaGrange College

Founded in 1831, LaGrange College is the oldest private college in Georgia. Nestled on a 125-acre hilltop campus 65 miles southwest of Atlanta, LaGrange maintains a close relationship with the United Methodist Church and takes pride in providing students with a well-rounded liberal arts education, emphasizing analytical aptitude and adaptability. The college began as a women’s academy, but became coed in 1953, and now enrolls more than 1,000 students.

LaGrange is recognized as a leader in environmental sustainability, and that commitment was front and center when the school built the new Frank & Laura Lewis Library in 2009. Designed by Perry Dean Rogers Architects, the 45,000-square-foot, three-story library earned a Silver level LEED certification. In terms of technology, the Lewis Library is “probably one of the best-equipped liberal arts college libraries in the South and, maybe, the nation,” says Library Director Loren Pinkerman. In addition to classroom space and an auditorium that accommodates up to 50 students, the library has Wi-Fi, 24 laptop computers for in-library instruction, high-speed printers on each level, and a host of SMART technologies.



## CASE STUDY

Originally, the library had two scanning solutions: a black-and-white Minolta book scanner on the upper level, and an overhead-style scanner in its archives section. Pinkerman added the Scannx Book ScanCenter, a self-service scanner integrated with an intuitive 15" touchscreen, to the mix, setting it up near the busy reference desk on the main level.

### Scannx Delivers Easy-To-Use, Green Solution

The other scanners were complicated for students to use, Pinkerman says, noting that they required constant troubleshooting and did not offer as many options as the Book ScanCenter.

The Scannx solution completely met his first goal, which was to deliver an easy-to-use, trouble-free scanning solution. "We are very service oriented and the product has just been incredibly well received by students and everyone in the library," he said. "They comment how easy it is to use and how quick it is to scan. They like how user-friendly the touch screen is, and the fact that the re-sizing of scans works well. That ease of use has almost eliminated the need for troubleshooting by librarians and staff, and eliminating paper jams on the copier machine. Basically, we've received no negative feedback."

Pinkerman's secondary goal of saving paper was also achieved. "We are trying to be green," he says. "We have a major effort on campus as far as recycling, and we've been concerned with the amount of paper generated from copiers and printers. Any opportunity to reduce the amount of paper being used is a real plus." In addition to the environmental implications, LaGrange doesn't charge students for printing, so less printing and copying also saves the school money.

After setting up the Book ScanCenter, about 50 percent of scans were sent to a printer, with the other half being e-mailed or saved to a USB drive. "We expect to see an increased number of scans going to USB or e-mail and less to a printer," he said. In addition, librarians have noticed a steep decline in the use of photocopiers.



## CASE STUDY

LaGrange Senior Krishmaa Robinson says she is using less paper since using the Scannx Book ScanCenter. "If you have to print something out, you may only need it for one thing. Now, if you can scan it to flash drive or send it to yourself in an email, you can throw it into the electronic trash without ever printing it. And I think less paper is a good thing." In addition, the scanner is saving her time. "The other day, I didn't go to one of my classes," she said. "My classmate gave me the notes and I didn't have to write them down. I was able to scan them quickly, instead of borrowing them for a few hours or overnight."

This real shift in how students use library materials is causing Pinkerman to rethink the use of space and the deployment of library resources. Now, the library is down to only one copier, and it is losing the popularity contest. "It's hardly ever used," he says. "But if I go out of my office right now, someone would be using the Scannx."

### More References, Reduced Wear-and-Tear

There are also unexpected benefits that are harder to quantify. "Librarians have noticed a considerable increase in the use of print reference sources since the Scannx unit was installed," said Pinkerman. "Formerly, if a librarian suggested part of a reference text to a student, the student might glance over at the copy machine and say, 'Why bother?' Now, they can easily scan and incorporate them into their term papers and reports."

Robinson agrees. "I use it at least three times a week," she said. "It gives me the availability of the references when and where I want to use them. I don't have to be at the library."

The Interlibrary Loan Librarian also found the Book ScanCenter to be invaluable. In the past, when someone requested an article, they would make a photocopy and mail it. Now, they scan articles and e-mail them, saving packaging time, postage, and trips to the post office.



## CASE STUDY

Best of all, librarians at LaGrange like how the design of the Book ScanCenter reduces wear and tear on the books.

“The fact that the Scannx unit can scan all the way to the edge means books don’t have to be pressed down on the scanning surface, doing harm to book bindings,” said Pinkerman. “It also means that printing from books with tight bindings may still be scanned. It really has saved bindings on a lot of materials like large art books and other large volumes.”

It’s a feature Pinkerman yearned for on a recent trip to Nebraska, when he was looking up old family documents at the registry of deeds office. “A lot of these county governments haven’t digitized those records or microfilmed them,” he said. “So here I was, handling these huge deed books – 11”x17” and 5 inches thick – and they had a regular copy machine. You can’t imagine what that’s doing to those bindings and the gymnastics you have to go through to make the copies.”