Richard Harner

"This technology is a real asset to the individual hobbyist. I'm happy with everything about it. For the power and use you get, it's empowering. It does so much, and the customer service is so good."

– Richard Harner, Liberty, Missouri

ScannX offers institutional-powered technology to hobbyists

Rich Harner has a passion for old technology – specifically pre-motor car era railroad machines. A retired pharmacist, Harner has amassed a one-of-a-kind collection of train handcars – also called velocipedes or "fast foot" in Latin – and railroad bicycles, along with related photographs, pamphlets, manuals, drawings, blueprints, and over 500 books. It is enough to fill a barn outside his hometown of Liberty, Missouri.

Lately, however, he's developed a passion for a newer technology: the ScannX Book ScanCenter Elite that he uses to digitize, archive, and share his extensive collection.

While libraries, universities, and research institutions have embraced the ScannX Book ScanCenter for its ability to offer their large, diverse clientele with an easy-to-use, multi-functional scanning solution that pairs seamlessly with their network needs, Harner says he is just "an individual who loves playing with this machine, and I'm so happy with everything about it."

Harner first discovered the ScannX Book ScanCenter during a visit to the Linda Hall Library, a renowned independent research library devoted to science, engineering,

and technology on the campus of the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Its touch-screen interface, oversized book-edge scanner, and document feeder work together to provide a fast, powerful, yet easy-to-use, self-service scanning solution that instantly stores scanned content in a wide range of digital options and expands the range of services for library patrons.

"I needed to scan a periodical there last winter, and they have a couple ScannX machines," said Harner. "When I used it, I thought 'Holy Cow! This is amazing!' I took cell phone pictures (of the machine), did an online search, and called." Harner connected with Murray Dennis, founder and CEO of ScannX, who helped him customize a Book ScanCenter 7145 to meet his needs.

"I can't say enough about how great they have been to work with: The customization, the goodwill of their customer service, and the good value for the dollar," said Harner. "I wish I could buy a washing machine from these people. It's such a good company."

Having his own Book ScanCenter not only saves him a trip to the library, it also means he doesn't have to contend with time or page limits that some libraries put in place because so many customers want to use the popular self-service scanners. "The best thing is that, as a personal user, ScannX was able to customize it for me so I can have a 1,000-page limit and 4-hour shut off."

Now, Harner is digitizing his collection. In the process, he continues to discover new things to appreciate about his ScannX Book ScanCenter. The oversized book-edge scanner with automatic document feeder can scan an 11" x 17" page in 200 dpi black and white in under 5 seconds. That means he can scan everything from blueprints, to delicate historic pamphlets, to tightly bound books. "I use the book edge a lot, and the image stays nice and crisp all the way across," he said. "And I

love the size. I have some fairly large photographs and blueprints and things that are not able to be scanned with a traditional 8.5 x 11" scanner, because back in the day they just made things bigger." He also loves the speed. "I've worked with traditional scanners," he said. "They are slow."

The ScannX Book ScanCenter makes it easier to share his collection with other enthusiasts. "Most of the things I've acquired over the years are from the old west – about the 1880s to 1920s – and they are mostly one of a kind. This machine means I am able to get a nice, crystal clear scan with the patina of the original and disseminate it to people who could never find it otherwise." Because the Book ScanCenter converts scanned documents and images to PDF, searchable PDF, Word, JPEG, TIFF, PNG, and MP3 files, he can send it in whatever format works best for the recipient. And because it can send scans to email, USB drive, mobile devices, Google Drive, Dropbox, Box, Office 365, OneDrive, network folders, a printer, or fax, sharing is easier than ever. "I'm 70 and, when I'm gone, I want to donate my collection to a museum, but while I have it, I'm trying to digitize it and share it with people who are interested. Having the ability to scan this stuff makes people happy and enriches their hobbies," said Harner. "I feel like I'm doing some good for people and that's rewarding."

Harner says he sees the ScannX Book ScanCenter as a powerful, versatile, and dependable tool, not just for libraries, but for the individual hobbyist or amateur genealogist. "I know it seems expensive, but it's not much more than a good computer, maybe twice as much as a cell phone. But this machine is so fast compared to traditional scanners – it's like lighting. And it scans as a searchable pdf with incredible accuracy. If you were a genealogist, having a searchable genealogy PDF would be amazing. For the power and use you get, it's empowering. It does so much, and the customer service is so good. If you have an issue, you can call a person up and they answer on the first or second ring."