



Yakima Community College

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– Joan Weber, director of Library and Media Services

More Options, Greater Convenience, Less Cost

When Joan Weber saw the Scannx Book ScanCenter at an American Library Association Midwinter Meeting, she immediately realized it could solve a real gap in service and provide greater privacy for her patrons.

“Students were asking over and over again if they could send a fax or scan documents for a report,” said Weber, director of Library and Media Services at Yakima Valley Community College (YVCC) in Washington, and the library had no convenient, private alternative to offer them.

“If students wanted to fax on our campus, they had to go to the cashier’s office and tell the cashier how many pages they want to fax,” she said. “They’d pay a dollar a page, then go next door to the registration office, show their receipt, and give their pages to whoever is behind the counter, and that person would have the potential of seeing what they were faxing. As a librarian that’s bothersome to me.”

Over spring break, Weber installed the Book ScanCenter Elite on a table near the library’s two copy machines, around the corner from the circulation/reference desk. Within a week, students who tried it told the library staff how easy it was to operate and how grateful they were for a simple, self-serve way to send faxes. “They like doing faxes by themselves, and they’ve liked not having to stand in the cashier’s



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line to pay for a fax,” said Weber. And she feels better about offering students, many of whom are faxing resumes and job applications, greater privacy.

Vend System Makes Scannx Self-Supporting

Scannx is also saving students money. The Book ScanCenter Elite supports numerous billing systems and Weber chose to connect it to a Jamex coin-op vend system. Faxes still cost \$1 per page. But the Scannx costs only 5 cents per scan (up to 11”x17”) for black & white or color, and allows students to save in Word, PDF, searchable PDF, JPEG, PNG or TIFF formats. They can also modify the scans, rotating them or cropping them to capture only the information they want. Once scanned, the documents may be saved to USB or a Google Drive, e-mailed, or sent to mobile devices. Since the copy machines cost 10 cents per page for black and white and 50 cents per page for color, library patrons are getting a lot more options for a lot less money.

Weber made a point of showing students that, by scanning two pages as an 11”x17” scan, they can put it on a USB drive, enlarge the page on their laptop for easy reading, and still pay only 5 cents. “If you’re going to photocopy that, it’s going to be 5 cents whether it’s 8.5”x11” or 11”x17”, she said. And for YVCC students, cost really is important.

“We are located in one of most economically depressed areas of the state,” said Weber. “So, we really wanted something that would make it as cheap as possible for students to get what they need and take it home with them.”

Unlike some college libraries, Raymond Library at YVCC doesn’t get any of the technology fee money that students pay to the college. That meant that the flexible support Scannx added for billing systems was an important feature, and made the Book ScanCenter a better fit than some other scanning solutions. “We can’t do it for free,” said Weber. “The number one criterion really was that I could attach a coin



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box to it so it would be self-supporting, and that students wouldn't need our help, so they could do it themselves and do it confidentially."

In fact, said Weber, with Yakima Valley's constricted budget situation, "the only reason I was able to buy this is that eventually it will be revenue neutral. Once it's paid off, it will be revenue generating. Money is tight, and to do anything like this it would have to be revenue neutral in the long run."

Students And Staff Like Ease-Of-Use, Flexibility Of Scannx

By the end of the final quarter, students were gravitating to the system without any problems. "We've shown it to them, then we've never heard from them again," said Weber. "And our students are not afraid to ask if they don't know how something works."

Weber disabled the scan-to-print feature of the Book ScanCenter. One reason was that, by not connecting the scanner through the two copiers, she can maintain three separate workstations. She also hopes that once students see the advantages of the Book ScanCenter, they will come to a new conclusion.

"As students realize the advantage of putting things on their smart phones and tablets, it will dawn on them that they don't have to use paper, and they don't have to carry their textbook to class," she said. So far, she posted a simple sign that explains what the Scannx Book ScanCenter is and what it does. Most students are scanning to USB drives, and the staff hasn't seen demand for the smart phone and tablet feature. "But I know that will come eventually," said Weber. "I think it's a matter of educating them. As we move forward with incoming students, it will be in their student handbooks and we will include it during tours and orientations."

Weber has also been particularly pleased with the ability to scan documents to a searchable PDF format. "I did know it did that, but to actually see it and have students use it . . . I didn't expect it to be as useful as it is," she said.



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After only a few months, Weber was so pleased with the Scannx Book ScanCenter Elite that she recommended the system to all library directors in the Washington State Community Colleges system. "I am trying to show my colleagues that it is a neat system, and it could be beneficial if they were in a position to buy one," she said.

About Yakima Valley Community College

Founded in 1928, YVCC is one of the oldest community colleges in the state of Washington, serving over 10,000 students on campuses in Yakima and Grandview, as well as learning centers in nearby Ellensburg, Toppenish, and Goldendale. A public, two-year institution of higher education, the college prepares students to transfer to four-year universities, as well as offers degrees in the health sciences and other vocational fields. The college also offers customized training for business and industry, programs in adult basic education, English as a Second Language, lower division arts and sciences, professional and technical education, and community services.