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News - Ogeechee Tech Library Makes the Move to OCLC's WorldShare Management Services

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Ogeechee Technical College

Ogeechee Tech Library Moves to OCLC's WorldShare Management Services

The Ogeechee Technical College Library was the first technical college library in the nation to convert to OCLC's WorldShare Management Services (WMS).



Dr. Lynn Futch

In 2011, thirty-seven academic, public, and special libraries were part of the early adopters program to implement WMS. OCLC's WorldShare Management Services offers libraries a unified solution to help streamline routine tasks like purchasing, cataloguing, and circulating library materials to patrons. "By moving these functions to the Web, libraries are able to share infrastructure costs and resources as well as collaborate in ways that free them from the restrictions of local hardware and software," said Dr. Lynn Futch, OTC's dean for library services. "We have had extremely positive impacts on our budget, our efficiency, and most importantly, our students' use of the library for research and learning." The availability of training and 24/7 online support

were other reasons for choosing WMS.

WMS allows students to access data in a search platform that is similar to Google in format and speed. It provides students and faculty with access to library-held materials as well as allowing them to search a vast pool of information that includes books found in the world's libraries, locally held databases, and a large collection of materials from digital and web-based archives. The new system also will streamline acquiring and cataloging resources and increase availability and immediacy to sources, according to Futch.

According to Dr. Charlene Lamar, OTC vice president for academic affairs, the addition of WMS is another way to serve students better. "The more access to educational materials we can provide our students, the greater opportunity they have to expand their research and knowledge base in their studies," said Lamar. "While physical libraries with paper volumes continue to be important, there is no way to physically provide the expanse of materials that are offered through this online program," Lamar concluded.

"Being the first technical college in the country to utilize this program is significant for our students. It means they have resources here that they may not have at any other technical college in the country right now," stated Futch. Ogeechee Tech has been utilizing WMS since August 2011.