Barnard College
Case Story

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What Barnard College says about Scannx Book ScanCenter:

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> Lisa R. Norberg
> Dean of the Library and Academic Information Services
> Barnard College, New York

About Barnard College and the Library

Since 1889, Barnard College has been one the country's most distinguished liberal arts colleges for women. Located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, right next to Columbia University – with which is shares a special partnership – the beautiful 4-acre campus has graduated generations of leaders in the arts, business, government, science and more. Originally founded as one of the few places where women could get the same rigorous education as men, it continues to offer one of the most prestigious, single-sex educational experiences in the world to over 2,300 students from 48 states and 53 countries.

Barnard Library and Academic Information Services (BLAIS), located in Lehman Hall, boasts a collection of more than 300,000 volumes, with a special emphasis in women's studies, dance, art and literature. The library also houses a collection of academic journals and periodicals and an impressive media collection of over 3,000 video and 8,000 audio recordings.

Particularly unique is the library's Zines Collection with over 2,000 self-publications available for research and lending, with a strong focus on the personal and political writings and art from urban women, especially New Yorkers and women of color. Started in 2003 with an initial budget of just $500, the collection has grown to become the largest library of Zines – short for magazines or fanzines – and the first to be cataloged in the Online Computer Library Center.

Fully integrated into the Columbia University Library system, Barnard Library patrons also have access to that system's over 10,000,000 volumes, 100,000 journals, and countless rare books and manuscripts.

Scannx Book ScanCenter offers Consistency and Convenience

When Barnard Library decided to upgrade from an old-fashioned desktop scanner linked to a computer terminal with Adobe software, they looked no further than their neighbor and partner, Columbia University. "Our colleagues at Columbia were using them and

had a good experience," said Lisa Norberg, Dean of the Library and Academic Information Services at Barnard. "We were really looking for a user friendly solution – something that the students could use without a lot of help, that didn't require a great deal of staff support. That was our prime motivation. Plus we wanted to be consistent across the campuses."

The first Scannx Book ScanCenter, with its integrated 15" touchscreen and large book-edge scanning bed was an instant hit. Not only is it easy to use, but the Scannx Book ScanCenter is the first self-service scanner that can send scans directly to an iPhone, iPad or other tablet or smart phone, in addition to USB, e-mail and GoogleDocs. Patrons use the simple touchscreen instructions to select, crop and scan their documents, then use a free QR code reader app to instantly transfer the digital document to their mobile device.

"The students have just loved the simplicity of the interface with the touch screen," said Norberg. "And we really appreciate the way the technology has kept up with the students' preference for mobile devices like iPads and iPhone. We haven't had time to study the statistics yet, but we think that students will really appreciate having that option."

By Spring Semester, students were lining up to use the Book ScanCenter, and the college decided to purchase a second unit. Both are located near the main copiers in the library's 1st floor Information Common, near the reserved materials. Those reserved materials and reference material seems to be among the most frequently scanned materials. While many students don't use electronic textbooks, said Norberg, they like having electronic access to supplemental materials, documents, and chapters and passages they may need for their research papers and presentations.

"As an undergraduate library, having quick and easy access to our reserved reading is so important," said Norberg. The Scannx Book ScanCenter "has really transformed our reserved space." The scanners have also seen heavy use from students working with materials from the library's large collection of art books, which are often so large and heavy that a digital scan makes a welcome alternative. Finally, the ScanCenters have been a perfect fit for the Zine Library, with its many one-of-a-kind and fragile items. "These are self-published zines, mostly handmade, and they are as low-tech as you can be, but they do circulate," she said.

Less Printing for a Better Environment

Since the Scannx Book ScanCenters were installed, Norberg has noticed that the library is going through a lot less paper. "It has significantly reduced the amount of printing and copying the students are doing," said Norberg. "We went to a centralized printing system for the college, so I don't have the numbers on what it saves me on paper costs. Absolutely, I think there is a cost savings, but it's also saving a lot the wear and tear on the environment."

That is important at Barnard, which is strongly committed to conservation and working to reduce paper use. Already, students have a quota of 100 sheets per week on the University-wide NINJA print system. Extra printed pages cost 10 cents per sheet, and photocopies cost 15 cents per page. Those policies make free scans on the Book

ScanCenter kiosks an even better choice. It's also one of the reasons Norberg expects the Scannx Book ScanCenter technology to replace photocopiers over time.

"We've already cut a copier this summer," she said. "Once we added the second Book ScanCenter we were able to get rid of one of our photocopiers. And we've talked about putting (Book ScanCenters) on other floors. I think the interface and the fact that it's so easy to use," will allow the new technology to overtake photocopiers in libraries like hers.

"I would definitely recommend it to my colleagues," she said. "It's affordable. It's user-friendly. It's the fastest, easiest way for our staff to scan items from our archives and quickly e-mail them. We love it."