



*Providing a world-leading research centre with a fully managed cloud based library management system*

## **ROTHAMSTED RESEARCH USE SOUTRON FOR THEIR LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SOLUTION**



**ROTHAMSTED RESEARCH**  
where knowledge grows

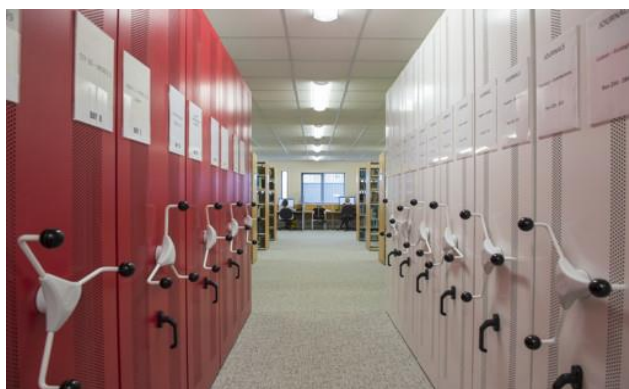
Rothamsted Research is the longest running agricultural research station in the world, providing cutting-edge science and innovation for more than 170 years.

A world-leading research centre in plant and soil science for sustainable agriculture. Their mission is to deliver the knowledge and new practices to increase crop productivity and quality and to develop environmentally sustainable solutions for food and energy production.

Rothamsted Library is one of the oldest specialist agricultural collections in the UK. The Library reflects the Institute's research interests with comprehensive collections of books and journals in soil science, plant sciences, agronomy, nematology, entomology (including apiculture), pesticide science, plant diseases, mycology and biomathematics.

### **CHALLENGE**

In 2016 Rothamsted were looking for a new library management system to replace their previous solution which was going end of life.



After a short tender process Soutron were selected as the best match for their future needs.

They were seeking a simple, cost effective, hosted solution with responsive support to help reduce their reliance on internal IT resources. It was also important that any future solution was quick to implement and able to export data easily, as they wanted to share data with stakeholders regularly.

### **SOLUTION**

Today, Soutron provides Rothamsted Library with a highly flexible library management system. The extended functionality of the software allows them to automate many daily tasks, imports, exports and routines.

Tim Wales, Head of Library & Information Services, says, "We are now using the flexible API within Soutron extensively: exporting staff publication metadata into our new Drupal powered corporate website in real-time as well as into our new altmetrics analytics service with ease. The API is a really powerful feature within the LMS and we have other plans for it to help simplify the search experience for our scientists."



### **RESULTS**

Rothamsted library also took advantage of the Soutron self-service module for a "quick-win" service improvement.

Previously, scientists had to complete paper slips manually for each item, which then took the Library team around 10 minutes each time to manually process, whereas books can now be instantly borrowed and tracked with ease

This was further enhanced by Soutron developing a Single Sign-On (SSO) solution for Rothamsted, utilising the power of ADFS allowing local authentication to seamlessly log users into the application.

In addition, we linked the LMS user directory to the local Active Directory via an automated daily file of staff data, resulting in no more manual account creations and separate usernames/passwords/PINS to remember!



## PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Soutron LMS has provided the library with even more time saving features. Tim says “The ability to import and export content en masse and flexibly for our workflows and reporting needs is also very important to us as we are a small team. As we already used EndNote® for collecting publication records, thanks to Soutron it now takes half the time it did previously to add them to the LMS. We can now bulk import various record types, article metadata, migrated ejournals and ebooks directly into the LMS. We also find the Global Edit feature a great tool, the API was exposing legacy cataloguing inconsistencies that crept in over the years, but we can now instantly update a range of selected record fields with a couple of clicks.”

The library management system is fully maintained and supported by Soutron, so the library staff can focus on their daily duties without the headaches of upgrades and ongoing maintenance.

In his manager capacity, Tim has been able to use the reporting functions of the LMS for the first time to provide custom cuts of metadata to scientists, for their own reporting needs for RCUK, as well as for quarterly reports on research impact.

Plus, the Library team plan to use the various off-the-shelf collection analysis reports (such as duplicate item checks) when they seek to review and merge stock from Rothamsted’s library, based in a former chapel at their North Wyke site in Devon, into the main collection at Harpenden later this year.

Tim concludes with, “If we need to put a call in, we have found the helpdesk and support from the team very responsive to our needs, including out of hours”.



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Tim Wales,  
Head of Library & Information Services



To learn more about Rothamsted Research and the services it provides to the agricultural sector, visit their website:

[www.rothamsted.ac.uk](http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk)

To find out how Soutron can provide cloud based tools to support your library research and information services, visit:

[www.soutron.com](http://www.soutron.com)