

Providing a cloud based library management solution for world class library of printing history

ST BRIDE FOUNDATION USE SOUTRON FOR THEIR LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SOLUTION



St Bride Foundation was established in 1891 to provide a social, cultural and recreational centre for London's Fleet Street and its burgeoning print and publishing trade.

At the heart of the Foundation is an unparalleled library with extensive collections of printed material, archives and artefacts relating to printing, typography and graphic design. Visitors come from across the world to carry out research there.

CHALLENGE

They were seeking a Library Management System to provide the library staff with the tools to catalogue their collections, upload images and maintain stock locations.

A user friendly and easy to access Search Portal, to allow end users to carry out catalogue searches and research online, was also an essential requirement.



SOLUTION

Heather Jardine, Library Volunteer, says, "We selected Soutron for our new library management solution as you were able to provide us with a cost-effective solution that suited our specific needs, especially as a smaller library.

"This, along with your excellent customer-centric approach and initial demonstration of the system, made Soutron stand out as a supplier of choice for us."

St Bride are only using the LMS software as a cataloguing tool at present and are not yet using the circulation or acquisitions features.

RESULTS

Heather says, "Although we only use the basic functionality of the LMS at the moment, it has helped us enormously. The catalogue and new Search Portal is simply brilliant! The ability to add new items, expose previously uncatalogued collections and record stock movements is wonderful."

Many of the books are in the library because of the way they look, rather than their subject matter, the ability to include images in the new catalogue was therefore vital.



Heather says, "To showcase our titles by including images, as we have recently done with our chapbook collection, is very important to us.

These pictures really are worth a thousand words. We know that a large part of our audience is based overseas and with the cloud based search portal you have provided, visitors can start to explore our collections wherever they are."



Soutron's easy to use Search Portal provides the online catalogue now expected of any major research library. Visitors can now carry out searches before going to the library and let the library team know in advance what material they would like to see, so that it can be ready for them on arrival.

As the library has limited staff and resources it has helped them save time and allowed them to handle enquiries a lot quicker than before the arrival of the Soutron LMS.

Looking forward to the future Heather adds, "I know there is so much more we can do with our Soutron LMS. We want to use the saved searches feature to prepare select bibliographies for popular enquiries; and we are keen to explore the reporting functionality, because the more we can discover about who uses our catalogue and how, the better we can tailor it to their needs. We are also going to attend the next regular Client User Group as it will provide us with an opportunity to meet other likeminded users of the software and learn what new features are in the pipeline."



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Heather Jardine,
Library Volunteer



To learn more about St Bride Library and their extensive collections on print, media, communications and design, email them at library@sbf.org.uk.

To find out how you can migrate your own special library to a fast, cloud-based solution to support your organisation, start a conversation with Soutron today: www.soutron.com