

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Education Resources Sub-Committee	Subject: New Library Management System for Secondary School Library Resource Centres
From: Director of Education	
Date: 23rd July 2003	
Ref: MM/RB	

Purpose of Report

This report recommends that a new library management system, supplied by Access-IT Software Ltd, be installed to secondary school library resource centres.

Recommendations

The education resources sub-committee is recommended:

- (i) to approve the purchase of the library management software, supplied by Access-IT Software Ltd, for secondary school library resource centres.

Christine Pollock

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NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEW LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTRES

Report by the Director of Education

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In 1993 EASL (Education Administration Systems Limited) was established as the electronic library management system in secondary schools. Since 1993 significant developments in ICT, particularly in the areas of computer networking and the Internet have led to the need for a review of this library management system against those currently available on the market. A comparative review was begun in September 2001.
- 1.2 The aims of the review were to ensure that the system in operation in North Lanarkshire schools was fit for purpose and met the needs of school library staff and pupils in a modern ICT environment. Systems including EASL, were measured against a standard set of technical criteria and information gathered from consultation with school librarians.
- 1.3 The review concluded that the current system (EASL) did not meet requirements. In addition, it was concluded that a joint solution in partnership with the public library service was not feasible.
- 1.4 3 further solutions were evaluated in September 2002 by education and community service staff. The Access-IT system was identified as the preferred option and the company was invited to take part in a pilot project.

2 PILOT PROJECT

- 2.1 A pilot project was considered to be an essential part of the process of identifying the best software solution. Without live testing it was impossible to be sure that a robust and effective system had been chosen.
- 2.2 The pilot project was conducted in 2 secondary schools and the central ERS between January and March 2003.
- 2.3 The pilot was rigorous and was conducted on best value principles. School librarians and ERS staff developed a set of qualitative performance indicators to review the system and school librarians were also asked to keep a project diary highlighting their experiences. The criteria also included pupil use of the system.
- 2.4 The evaluation showed Access-IT to be robust, flexible and easy to manage, it significantly enhanced the service to the immediate school community. Significant advantages were that it was cross-platform and could access and download electronic media such as PDF files

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Funding for the rollout of the new system to all secondary school is available from the NGL Action Fund and existing revenue resources. The cost of the rollout programme is as follows:

Specification	Cost per school	Total costs
Software	£2400 + 1 free	£55200
12 days on-site training	£122.50	£2940
Annual Support Costs	£395	£9480
Total	£2917.50	£67620

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The education resources sub-committee is recommended:

- (ii) to approve the purchase of the library management software, supplied by Access-IT Software Ltd, for secondary school library resource centres.