ZETA SIMPLIFIES COPYING AND SCANNING

Product: The Zeta overhead book copy and scan system by Zeutschel GmbH.

Details: Allows patrons and library staffers to easily convert books, loose documents, and other materials into a range of digital formats.

User (pictured): Nathan Stevens, assistant director of the Media and Education Technology Resource Center at North Carolina State University (NCSU) College of Education in Raleigh.

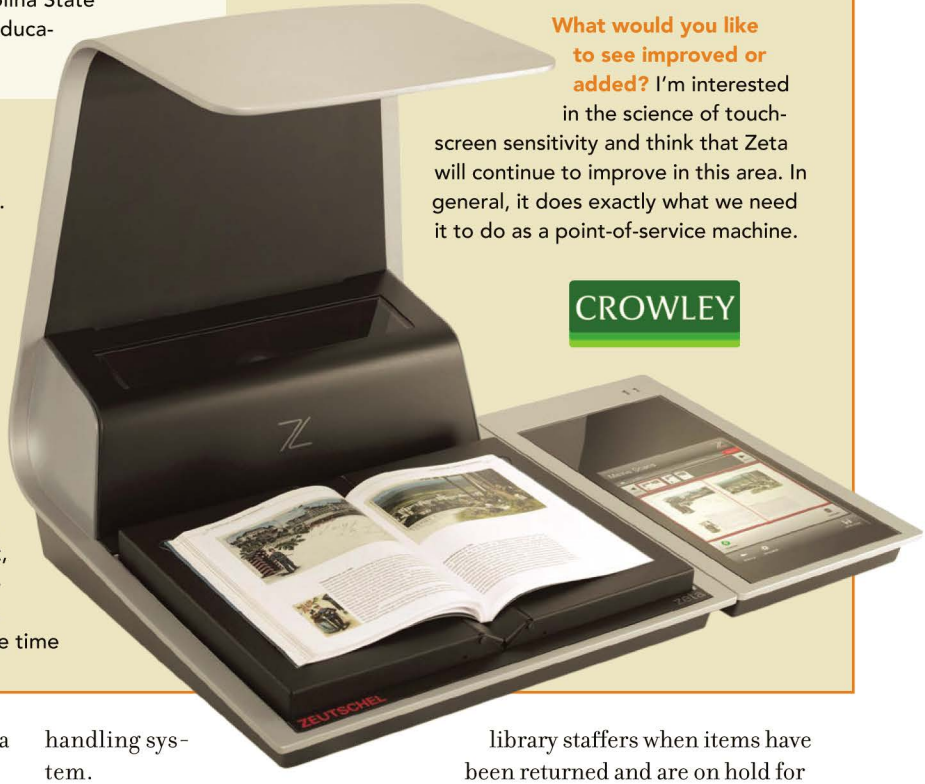
How do you use the Zeutschel Zeta book copy system? Our Zeta scanner is open to the public. Patrons are primarily undergraduate and graduate students who are scanning from resource and textbooks, loose pages, and student-teacher portfolios.

How does it serve the library's needs? In the past, we used flatbed or sheet-fed scanners that were connected to a full computer system (PC, monitor, keyboard, and mouse). As a touchscreen unit, Zeta virtually operates as an all-in-one with a PC tucked neatly away. Students are done in one-tenth the time compared with the old technology. They can scan, save to a thumb drive, and walk away. (At NCSU, the system is set up only for USB delivery; other options, such as email and saving to the cloud, exist.)

What are the main benefits? The size of the Zeta is space-saving and has a fairly small footprint while still allowing students to scan larger formats, such as an oversize textbook. The scan speed and ease of use allow students to maximize their time. Additionally, because students no longer have to check out material, other patrons have access to the same material almost immediately.

What would you like to see improved or added? I'm interested in the science of touchscreen sensitivity and think that Zeta will continue to improve in this area. In general, it does exactly what we need it to do as a point-of-service machine.

CROWLEY



a new RFID return shelf that offers a faster and more convenient way to return library items. The Smartblade 210 is ideal for smaller libraries that want to automate their returns process, but do not have the space for a fully automated materials-handling system.

The Smartblade 210 incorporates a series of RFID antennas into "blades" that read the RFID tag of items placed on the shelf. Connected to a dedicated Smartserve 410 kiosk (purchased separately), the unit will remove the material from a patron's account and enable security, allowing it to be immediately checked out by other patrons. The system also notifies library staffers when items have been returned and are on hold for another user.

Designed to be integrated into custom-built library furniture, the Smartblade 210 is intended to be placed in a high-traffic entryway of a library. The system can be configured with up to eight shelves, holding up to 400 items at one time, and can fit within a small space, depending on furniture size, placement, and design. ▮

To have a new product considered for this section, contact Phil Morehart at pmorehart@ala.org.