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 flat-bed 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

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