



News Release

Scottsdale Unified School District selects Alexandria for its 27 schools

Alexandria's simple-to-use interface, quality technical support are deciding factors

Scottsdale, AZ, Aug. 24, 1995 – Scottsdale Unified School District announced it will automate its 27 school libraries with the Alexandria library information system, concluding a year-long study of three leading library systems.

The school district tested Follett, SIRS Mandarin and Alexandria at three high schools during the 1994-95 school year. The district cited Alexandria's simple-to-use interface and quality technical support as major factors in its decision to purchase the system.

Alexandria is the #1-selling school library information system for the Macintosh and is developed by Salt Lake City-based COMPanion Corporation.

COMPanion's technical support, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, will be a major benefit to the district's 27 librarians, said Sharon Ewers, Arcadia High School Librarian. Ewers tested Alexandria as part of the district study.

"Every time I call COMPanion's technical support, I speak to someone who helps me immediately – no voice mail, no having to wait for a call back the next day," Ewers said. "I've had such a good experience with COMPanion's technical support. Their attitude of doing whatever it takes to help their users is something I perceived throughout the entire company," she added.

Ewers was also impressed with how easily the students used Alexandria to find information resources. In fact, after she replaced her previous library system with Alexandria, she noticed an improvement in her students' information searching skills.

"The Alexandria interface is logical and easy for students to use. With Alexandria, the students are better able to search and find information on their own," she said. "They are more independent in the library – and that is one of our goals."

Mark Share, District Director of Information Services, said the district's 24,000 students will have access to Alexandria via school-wide networks. "Our objective is to give students access to multiple resources from wherever they are in the school," Share said.

The district, which provides strong support for implementing new technology in its schools, plans to purchase more than 1,000 Macintosh computers during the next three years as part of the district technology plan. It has already purchased dozens of Power Macintosh computers in part to take advantage of Alexandria 4.0, a Power Macintosh-native version to be released in January 1996.

"With the combination of our Power Macintosh-native code and our advanced client/server architecture, we expect Alexandria 4.0 on a Power Macintosh to be about 10 times faster than our competitors' systems using their older architectures," said Bill Schjelderup, COMPanion President.

For a free trial version of Alexandria, call toll-free 1-800-347-6439.

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