Closing the Loop for Automation
at Georgia Northwestern Technical
College Library

Rialto seamlessly fits into our existing workflows

For John Lassiter, Director of Library Services at Georgia Northwestern Technical College, becoming a Rialto library was the logical next step in a long series of improvements. "I'd love to say choosing Rialto was the result of a big event, but really it was a process."

John is constantly on the lookout for ways to improve the acquisition process because "acquisitions is labor-intensive for librarians". All the steps to track and synchronize information between ordering workflows and the library's ILS (Integrated Library System) are unwieldy and time-consuming. Recognizing the need for greater efficiency, John eagerly adopts new technology when he sees the potential to streamline and improve the workflow.

"Years ago, I discovered embedded order data. At the time, that made things easy." When Georgia Northwestern went live with Ex Libris Alma Higher Ed cloud platform, John saw an opportunity to change how the library did acquisitions. "I completely revamped how we did acquisitions which is why we started to use OASIS."

The real-time acquisition API between ProQuest OASIS and Alma was the main draw and offered John's team the next level of innovation to the acquisition workflow. "It worked really well, and I thought that was best thing ever."

When John heard about Rialto, still in development by ProQuest and Ex Libris teams, he knew it would be the next logical step for his library. "I knew that having our primary book vendor integrated within the ILS would mean that you are not always bouncing back and forth between two systems. **Rialto was closing the loop in terms of automation, so I was ready to go for it.**"

Revolutionizing ebook buying

When ebooks were first made available to academic libraries for purchase, they were offered as a collection of several hundred or thousand titles at a time. This made them very difficult for libraries to deal with, making ebooks annoyingly "high maintenance" for librarians.

> **With ProQuest involved in the development of Rialto, I realized it could revolutionize our purchase of individual ebook titles. We can now develop our library's collection on title-by-title basis, whether print or electronic."**

Purchasing individual ebook titles provides libraries with the option to spend their annual budget in smaller transactions. Buying ebooks in big collections is easiest at the beginning of a fiscal year. As funds dwindle through the year, the purchase of a big ebook collection was out of question. "With title-by-title ebook purchasing through Rialto, I am able to get librarians to focus budget dollars to specific needs and to fill gaps in their collection."

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Sophistication through simplicity

"I like Rialto's sophistication is based on how simple it is to use. We librarians like to add things, add more and more options for our students so we know what a challenge it is to keep things simple."

For example, "one of the strengths of Rialto is the facets. The ability to go through and quickly limit its giant marketplace is very useful."

All seven of Georgia Northwestern's librarians are now using Rialto, and John noted that Rialto makes it even easier to work remotely. "It was very quick to get them up to speed. **Rialto is simple to understand which makes it easy to use."**

Creating new possibilities

Rialto has created new possibilities in workflows that John plans to implement soon. "I love Rialto. ProQuest is really headed in the right direction."

"I've been talking about Rialto to colleagues. Some will say 'I have worked for years with these workflows. I'm not sure I want to change.' I tell them that the improvements they'll discover with Rialto are well worth any effort needed to change."

About Georgia Northwestern Technical College

Georgia Northwestern Technical College, a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia, provides quality technical education and workforce development opportunities supporting student success throughout the communities of northwest Georgia. The college offers over 200 programs with degrees, diplomas, and certificates offered in business, health, industrial, and public service technologies, impacting 11,820 Northwest Georgians in 2020.
library.gntc.edu

About Rialto

Rialto serves as a comprehensive selection and acquisition tool, helping over 500 libraries manage their collections more efficiently.
When it comes to purchasing ebooks, we know choice is essential. With Rialto, your library can search, select, and order from more than 20 leading publisher and aggregator platforms within a single, easy-to-use marketplace. Rialto eliminates the need to purchase separately from individual platforms to simplify invoicing and other workflows.
Rialto is expanding to support informed fulfillment powered by analytics and AI, with a holistic approach that incorporates resource sharing networks and open access. It is also evolving to include collection analysis workflows that help libraries better understand and develop their collections. For mor information, visit our Rialto webpage.

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