"After evaluating the product with our records, we determined that Digital ReeL was the right solution. It was the most affordable option we found that met our requirements."

George Woods, District Technology Facilitator
Jackson Local Schools (Massillon, Ohio)

INDUSTRY
- Education

LOCATION
- Massillon, Ohio

CHALLENGES
- Slow, difficult record retrieval due to microfilm and off-site record storage
- Broken reader printer machine in need of repair or replacement
- Limited budget to replace reader printer or to spend on microfilm scanning solution

BMI PRODUCTS & SERVICES
- Digital ReeL microfilm and microfiche scanning solution
- Over 100 microfilm rolls and microfiche digitally converted by BMI Imaging
- Digital ReeL software installed on 5 Jackson Local Schools workstations

BENEFITS
- Eliminated the need to maintain physical microfilm reader printer
- Immediate record retrieval from a computer workstation
- Adjustable grayscale enhanced the image quality of the entire record archive

Case Study

JACKSON LOCAL SCHOOLS
Striving for Excellence

Overview

Jackson Local Schools, Ohio had archived its student and employment records on microfilm and microfiche. Searching for records on microfilm was a slow and cumbersome process and when a microfilm reader broke, the school had to make a decision: invest their limited dollars in replacing the reader printer or invest in a microfilm scanning solution.

After researching a few alternatives, Jackson Local Schools selected BMI Imaging's Digital ReeL because it was affordable and easy-to-implement. Digital ReeL's software application includes a unique adjustable grayscale feature that enables Jackson users to optimize the quality of difficult-to-read records. In addition, Digital ReeL's redaction feature enables workers to block out sensitive information prior to sending a school or employment record to those requesting the information.

The Search for a Cost Effective Solution

George Woods, Jackson Local Schools District Technology Facilitator, states "When our microfilm reader broke, we faced a $6,000 outlay to replace the machine. Some of our microfilm rolls were beginning to erode and we would have likely encountered another investment to duplicate those rolls." Woods researched digital microfilm scanning solutions as an alternative to investing limited budget dollars in maintaining a cumbersome microfilm technology.

Woods explains that, "We discovered Digital ReeL, contacted BMI and viewed an online demonstration. We then shipped BMI a sample microfilm roll and had them convert a sample of our records to Digital ReeL. We determined that Digital ReeL was the right solution for us and it was the most affordable option we found that met our requirements."

Jackson Local Schools shipped over 100 microfilm rolls to BMI where the records were digitally converted. BMI then shipped the 5 terabytes of digital microfilm and microfiche back to Jackson along with the Digital ReeL software.

Secure, Efficient Student and Employment Record Retrieval

Five Jackson workstations can access Digital ReeL, which enables employees to access records from a computer interface that looks like a physical microfilm reader. Users can scroll through digital microfilm rolls just like they would on a physical machine. Retrieval times have been drastically reduced because users are no longer chasing records off-site or fumbling with physical microfilm.

Security is important due to the sensitive nature of student and employment records. Woods states, "We are able to offer each department access to only their set of records using the security settings of Digital ReeL.

For example, our secretaries can respond to former students looking for student transcripts, gaining access to only the digital microfilm and microfiche with these records. Our payroll staff can access only the microfilm with employment records."

Adjustable Grayscale Optimizes the Quality of Tough-to-Read Records

It is not uncommon for records archived on microfilm to be difficult, even impossible to read. Jackson faced this problem and wanted a microfilm scanning solution that would enhance the quality of their entire record archive.

Most microfilm scanning services simply convert records to TIFF or PDF digital documents that are no easier to read than images on microfilm. Digital ReeL offers a unique image enhancement feature called adjustable grayscale. Woods states, "Our users would access a record and would be frustrated because they couldn't read it. I would use Digital ReeL's adjustable grayscale feature and the user would be surprised to see that everything would suddenly be visible."

Redaction Blocks Out Sensitive Information

Woods states, "Digital ReeL makes it easy for our workers to provide requested records free of sensitive information. A Jackson employee can quickly draw a box around sensitive information and completely block it out before emailing or printing the record."

Summary

Jackson Local Schools has all employee records and student records up to 2005 graduation on Digital ReeL. Jackson is in the process of preparing its special education records for Digital ReeL.

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