

## Case in Point . . . #42.



How do Olathe, KS schools protect millions of dollars in textbook assets?

With TextBook Management from

**GATEWAY**  
SOFTWARE CORPORATION

The facts on Olathe schools:

Students: 28,000+  
Teachers and Staff: 4,200  
Buildings: 62, including:  
34 Elementary Schools  
9 Middle Schools  
4 High Schools  
Plus, alternative education  
and other programs.

Titles: 4,000 different titles. 405,000 bar coded items.

Total textbook investment: \$17 million.

How TextBook Management from Gateway works for Olathe:

Today's textbook costs can range from a few dollars each to \$120+ for math and science books. For Olathe, KS, the average textbook cost is \$43. Their entire textbook investment totals more than \$17 million...and it's growing every year.

Kimberlie Pelsma, Director of Library/Technology Automation for Olathe Public Schools has used Gateway Software to stay on top of textbook management for more than 15 years. "We're still with Gateway after all these years! I've always gotten the help I need from them, when I need it. Gateway is like another trusted person on my staff."



*Kimberlie Pelsma,  
Olathe Public Schools*

TextBook Management isn't only a "year end" and "new school year" project. Olathe uses a central textbook repository that is, of course, busiest in the summer when they are getting ready for the new school year. Throughout the year, decisions are being made as textbooks are reviewed for renewal every five years. Textbooks themselves can have an average life of three to six years. Sometimes that life can be enhanced with rebinding. Textbooks are constantly being lost, damaged and need replacement. "Without a system like Gateway's TextBook Management, it would be far more difficult to make good purchase decisions," says Pelsma.

**Adaptable:** The Gateway system is adaptable. While Olathe uses software on their own system, Gateway TextBook Management is also available online, so you can access the power of TXT ONLINE anywhere you have an internet connection.

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**Flexible:** In Olathe Public Schools some buildings have a scanner per classroom and work almost autonomously. Some departments may have a scanner and laptop that gets passed from room to room. "The more people you have to rely on to check-in and check-out, the more inconsistencies you can have. Good or bad, some do it completely...some don't. The TextBook System provided by Gateway helps us limit inconsistencies," says Pelsma.

For Olathe, the TextBook Repository Clerk (and some additional summer staff) order, bar code and make sure delivery is made to the appropriate building and room. In the summer, there are pallets of books moving constantly. During the year pallets of new books move in...damaged or discontinued books move out. A further challenge is to match enrollment projections with textbook inventories.

At Olathe, in the High Schools, books tend to be assigned on a room by room basis. In the Junior High, a slightly different methodology is used as they use a central point to give books to all students. Again, the Gateway System is adaptable to the way you want to handle book assignments. It also keeps track of the book's purchase year; its condition on assignment and check-in; and its likely replacement plan.

**Transparent:** Reports are available that give teachers a concise circulation report...or, from the proverbial 36,000 ft. view...a report to summarize all teachers and departments. Gateway can be streamlined to give you the reports that are most meaningful to you.

"Our TextBook Management Program fosters student responsibility," says Pelsma. "Last year we recouped almost \$20K in textbook costs from students and their parents. It is simply smart and appropriate to manage such an important asset in that way. The system virtually pays for itself...not to mention the impossible task we'd have without it!"

The system also helps manage students and their text books as they change schools, or leave the district...often a soft spot in management by some schools.

Gateway's TextBook Management system integrates seamlessly with the student/faculty system so all are accountable. It can also interface with your Financial Management program for budget controls and purchase order management.

Kimberlie Pelsma says, "In 20 years I've almost never had a machine answer my customer service calls, and if it did...someone was back to me in minutes. I deal with many software providers, and Gateway customer support is wonderful!"

Gateway Software/TextBook Management...that's how Olathe takes care of its \$17 million dollar investment in textbooks. What can we do for you?

**GATEWAY**  
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