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CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT:

Carol Baker, Northside Christian School (St. Petersburg, FL)

Carol Baker has spent her entire 20-year career as a certified librarian at Northside Christian School in St. Petersburg, Fla.

In fact, Carol has worked at Northside Christian longer than she's been a certified librarian, starting there during the last semester of her master's at the University of Southern Florida (after transferring from Florida State University). And all this while Carol worked full time at a different school library, raised two children, and upheld her role as a pastor's wife.



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LEARNING TOOLS



Carol Baker with her husband Dick.

"I loved to read and I was interested in being a librarian," Carol says. "So when I was 35 I started looking into how to make that happen."

Northside Christian serves students K2-12 - meaning Kindergarteners start as young as two years old. A local college also uses the facility in the evenings; as Carol says, "We run the whole gamut."

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Using SIP2 to bring ebooks to your patrons easily

What is SIP2 and how can it help my library? Are you providing ebooks for your patrons? Do you use an ebook service like Overdrive or Axis 360? Mandarin's SIP2 module can help.

SIP2 is the abbreviation for the second version of Standard Interchange Protocol, a communication standard used between integrated library systems and other library services. The SIP2 module from Mandarin can connect your system to, among other things, a self-check terminal, a computer time or print

management software, or an ebook service. This module allows your patrons to be recognized by the ebook service, authenticating them with their patron barcode and password. It can allow the ebook service to determine the number of simultaneous ebooks for an individual patron, and it can allow the librarian to set any restrictions on ebook use by specified patrons. Connecting your ebook service to Mandarin in this way will also allow you keep statistics and create reports for ebook use.

To find out more about how the SIP2 module can work for you, contact Mandarin Tech Support at 800-426-7477 or support@mlasolutions.com.

See more tips about ebooks, including cataloging and displaying them, in previous issues of Impressions, which can always be found on the Mandarin website at <http://www.mlasolutions.com/community/newsletter>.

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Specifically, Carol works as the librarian for grades 6-12, but also does the professional work for K2-5.

"I can't say I love all the kids all the time, that wouldn't be truthful," Carol says when asked about what she loves most about her job. "But when the kids get what they need and come in and say - 'Yay! I got an A on my report' - those are the best moments."

Northside Christian started working with Mandarin about four years ago, and recently made the switch to Oasis Hosted.

"Mandarin Oasis Hosted is a new product for us, so it's a work in progress," Carol says. "But the people at Mandarin have been so great working with me to learn it. They've listened to suggestions. Debby ([Deborah Wells-Clinton](#), MLS, Mandarin's Library Automation Specialist) has been really great."

Part of that has included helping Carol [incorporate Visual Search](#) (for more about visual search, also take a look at [last month's Customer Spotlight](#)). Mandarin has also worked closely with Carol to incorporate a new collection of e-books, part of a broader transition to digital content that Carol sees as right in line with the evolution of librarianship over time.

"Books moved from scrolls to what we would call a book back in the 300s," she says. "There are still scrolls around, but very few. Unless there is some kind of civilization shift where electricity becomes unavailable - which I don't see happening - I do think we will move more to digital. That doesn't mean librarians are done, it just means that our roles will change."

"Working with you" -- moving forward we are hoping to profile a different Mandarin customer for every monthly newsletter. If you would like to suggest a future "Customer Spotlight", please drop us an email at automation@mlasolutions.com with the subject line: Customer Spotlight.

