

CASE STUDY

MEREDITH COLLEGE

Meredith was chartered in 1891. Today Meredith is an independent private women's college—one of the largest in the U.S. Meredith offers a comprehensive education with an emphasis on an innovative liberal arts curriculum.

Meredith College faced several challenges without a secure, web-based content management platform:

- Faculty needed an electronic place to store their critical work documents;
- Students wanted the ability to create their own web pages;
- Administrators wanted a better way to collaborate on documents instead of via email; and finally,
- The IT team was concerned about not having a reliable way to backup files.

Mickey Branstadter, CIO at Meredith College, faced daily questions about how to address these issues. In the summer of 2005, he assembled a taskforce of IT staff and faculty members to search for an open standards-based Basic Content Services solution.

Xythos Chosen For Easy, Intuitive Interface

The taskforce narrowed their choices to the Xythos Digital Locker and Microsoft Sharepoint. The consensus across the taskforce was that Xythos was easier, more intuitive and the learning curve for the technology was virtually non-existent; the Sharepoint interface was more difficult to navigate and understand.

From a technical perspective, the IT staff was concerned about SharePoint because of its technical learning curve. On the other hand, Xythos was easy to install and deploy—even with limited technical support.

“We chose Xythos for its easy, intuitive interface and its ability to integrate with a variety of systems,” said Diane Sherman, Project Manager at Meredith College. “As a result, we’ve been able to quickly deploy the Xythos system to faculty, staff and students with our existing IT resources.”



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Key Facts

Industry: Higher Education

Product: Xythos Digital Locker

Audience: Administrators, Faculty and Students

Why Xythos?

- Intuitive interface
- Ability to integrate with a variety of systems
- Easy to install and deploy

Benefits

- Provides platform for student eportfolios
- Enables secure research collaboration
- Allows administrators to manage fundraising campaigns



"We have seen so many uses of Xythos: from faculty collaboration on research to student eportfolios and more. As a result, I get a lot less phone calls from unhappy faculty and staff!"

Diane Sherman
Project Manager
Meredith College

Progressive Roll-Out Strategy

In Fall 2005, Meredith College started a progressive roll-out of the Xythos Digital Locker. They began with a 30-person pilot to faculty; after substantive feedback, Digital Locker was introduced to the remaining faculty members, department assistants, and all full-time and part-time Meredith College staff. Finally, in Spring 2006, Digital Locker was offered to all 2,300 students, with training available by self-guided tours.

Meredith College only needed three staff members to successfully introduce its new Xythos service: a project manager, a trainer and a systems administrator. Once the initial deployment was completed the college required less than two full-time employees to support whole Xythos user community.

Xythos Being Used For Research, Fundraising Campaigns

Faculty at Meredith College are using Xythos Digital Locker to collaborate on research with peers outside of the campus. With Xythos' integrated file version control, they are able to edit documents in place and save them with same file name while maintaining a complete change history.

Administrators on campus are using Xythos to develop proposals, committee documents and policies. Staff at the Institutional Advancement department are using Xythos to manage their fundraising campaigns. They are able to access all their spreadsheets and documents online and receive instant updates when co-workers make changes.

In the classroom, Xythos is being used to manage ad-hoc projects and student eportfolios. With Xythos, students can assemble all their work in a web folder and share it with the appropriate instructors and even potential employers. Previously, in the Teacher Education program, students needed to burn CDs of their work for faculty review. Now, CDs have been eliminated and every graduate of the Teacher Education program has a Xythos eportfolio to take with them.

"We have seen so many uses of Xythos: from faculty collaboration on research to student eportfolios and more," said Diane Sherman, Project Manager at Meredith College. "As a result, I get a lot less phone calls from unhappy faculty and staff! We're excited to continue to use and deploy Xythos in innovative ways across our campus."

**For more information please call 1.888.4XYTHOS
or visit www.xythos.com**

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