Leader in eBook Circulation Stays Wired to Safety With VelocityEHS

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Danielle Perry
Safety Program Coordinator
King County Library System

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– Public library system with 48 locations in Washington State
– Over 10 million visitors each year
– Leads all North American library systems eBook circulation

The King County Library System (KCLS) in Washington State serves communities directly surrounding the Seattle and Tacoma metro areas. It has 48 library locations with over ten million visitors each year. Reflecting the needs of its increasingly wired population, it leads all library systems in the U.S., Canada, and Australia in eBook circulation.

Despite its embrace of leading-edge technology in other areas, KCLS relied on traditional paper binder safety data sheet management for many years. However, in 2013, KCLS began considering the benefits of a cloud-based solution.

Danielle Perry has been Safety Program Coordinator for the KCLS for the past seven years.

"We're still very much a bricks and mortar operation," explains Ms. Perry. "We manage more than libraries; we have administrative offices and shipping facilities. All of these locations need to provide employees with access to safety data sheets. Previously, we had Safety Designates at each facility who were expected to fill a physical binder with safety data sheets. Whenever we received a new SDS, those binders would have to be updated. Record retention was extremely tough. So was providing oversight to make sure people were doing it."

"We knew we needed to revise our chemical safety program," continues Ms. Perry. "A VelocityEHS salesperson reached out to us. It was the perfect time! We were excited by how VelocityEHS Chemical Management would give us access to a centralized index of SDSs from all our facilities. It was clear that the system was going to help us 'clean house' greatly."

Ms. Perry emphasizes that she saw many benefits to a cloud-based SDS solution because of the unique suite of chemicals required for library sciences.

"We've got some typical office and maintenance supplies — like paints, cleaners and solvents, and chemicals to remove graffiti — but our Graphics Department also use lots of inks and different printer chemicals. Then there is our Mendery Department, which maintains old or damaged books. They use exotic glues, adhesives, and chemicals you've never heard of to fix books."

Upon adopting VelocityEHS Chemical Management and switching to fully electronic SDS management, the library system has been able to enjoy a significant time-savings while making chemical management seamless. In addition, the staff has become more knowledgeable and more engaged in chemical safety.

"It's been a huge time saver," says Ms. Perry. "Auto-updates happen really quickly, and go directly into our eBinder. It's automatically done. I'm not out there searching. The info we need is right at my fingertips. On top of that, it has increased staff awareness around the role of SDSs in employee and visitor safety. Now our staff 'gets it.' This is good, because I can't be at all locations at all times."

KCLS is keeping an eye on the future of chemical safety, and sees the newly-enhanced SDS/Chemical Management app from VelocityEHS as a natural extension of its current embrace of digital. The app allows customers to access and manage chemical information from the field, providing the ability to scan barcodes, QR codes, and UPC codes using their mobile devices.

"We're very interested in the SDS/Chemical Management app," says Ms. Perry. "Currently, our staff types information into an inventory sheet, and sometimes they send me pictures. Having that scanning capacity would greatly improve things. We're looking forward to it!"

21ST CENTURY SOLUTIONS FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY

Perhaps no institution has been called upon to adopt more technology in recent years than the American library. While communities still want access to physical books, they now believe libraries should also offer technology services, provide job and computer training, and connect with the online syllabi of local educators. Contemporary libraries lend eBooks, offer public computers onsite, and use mobile technologies to connect with visitors. In a world where more and more information lives online, libraries have moved into the digital age. **This move to digital can also be a solution for chemical management!** Libraries and library systems are responsible for the safety of the employees and citizens who visit their physical locations each day. Libraries can be home to potentially hazardous chemicals like cleaners and groundskeeping chemicals, as well as the chemicals used in book repair. VelocityEHS knows the compliance challenges this creates. That's why we build easy-to-use digital solutions that help visitors and employee stay safe and informed around onsite chemical hazards. Our industry-leading suite of cloud-based chemical safety software gives libraries the ability to seamlessly access hazardous chemical information and up-to-date safety data sheets. Find out why thousands of safety professionals — in library science and beyond — trust VelocityEHS to help them stay connected, compliant, and safe!

Benefits of VelocityEHS Chemical Management

Millions of MSDSs at Your Fingertips
24/7 access to the industry's leading database of safety data sheets ensures your company's library is up-to-date and in compliance.

Simplify Compliance
Easy-to-use tools help you meet hazard communication requirements (OSHA / WHMIS / GHS), including hazard determination, right-to-know access, labeling, safe chemical handling, PPE, and more.

Improve Chemical Management
Robust chemical management tools provide greater container-level control over the location, status and risk associated with the chemicals you use. Our free mobile SDS/Chemical Management app lets you scan barcode/QR code labels for in-the-field container management.

Mobile Access
Our online accounts are mobile optimized, and our free SDS/Chemical Management app makes it possible to access SDSs and chemical inventory information offline, when internet connectivity is limited. With these mobile capabilities, critical chemical safety information is always at your fingertips.

Regulatory Compliant
Multiple back-up options mean your system meets OSHA, WHMIS and other regulatory requirements for electronic safety data sheet /chemical management.

Quick ROI & Low Cost of Ownership
VelocityEHS Chemical Management pays for itself by eliminating time-consuming, manual administrative tasks. Plus, there's no software to install or maintain, and you get immediate access to new features.

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