

The First ResourceMate® Customer — Bea Lithgow

Reaching our 10,000th registered user has made us reflect on our very first registered user, Bea Lithgow from Ontario, Canada. In 1992, Bea started to research library automation software programs for her church, Peterborough Free Methodist Church and heard about ResourceMate® from the Church Library Association of Ontario, an association that she is still a member of today. ResourceMate® was still in a very early development stage, and the developer greatly appreciated her input and librarian expertise. Since that time, Bea has moved cities and libraries and has brought ResourceMate® with her all along the way. She started with our original version of 2.0 and has upgraded along with us and is currently using ResourceMate® Essential Plus at [Huron Park Baptist Church](#) in Woodstock, Ontario.

The church library has approximately 4,000 items, including DVDs, books, CDs, and study kits that include several different types of resources. Bea started working in libraries in 1970, when her daughter volunteered her to help with the school library.

I committed to work in the library for a year, and started my librarian training. My family moved the next year, and there happened to be an opening at the public library at the children's department. I applied for the job and got it. I loved the work and found it very interesting, and I still enjoy it to this day.

When we started at Huron Park Baptist Church the library volunteer team was already set up. Today, we have 9 volunteers that includes a 9yr old and a teenager. I'm a firm believer in organizing the library as if it were a public library, with dewey decimal classification and organization. Even if you start small, the easier it will be to control as it grows larger, so you might as well start with being organized.

The pastors love the library, they bring their books to be catalogued and to be kept organized. We know where the items are now, if it is checked out, on the shelves, etc. If you want to find things, you know where they are. And then, because of that, people come in to the library more.

One of my favorite features of the program is the patron search (OPAC) screen. It's the best thing since sliced bread! It's so easy to use and find items. I love searching by keyword. It works the same as the public library, your developers have done a great job!

Something I highly recommend to everyone is to create regular backup files of your data. I have the volunteers back up every week, and I also go in once a week to create my own backup on my flash drive.

I'm thankful for the support team at Jaywil who is always there to help, and I have found the program easy to use and have always promoted it to other organizations.



We really appreciate Bea Lithgow and the way she has supported and promoted ResourceMate® for over 20 years!