

A ResourceSpace case study

# Scotch College



ResourceSpace

[resourcespace.com](http://resourcespace.com)

# Keeping communities connected with photo uploads

For schools whose students board away from home and have a varied social calendar of events and excursions, it's important to keep family members in touch. This has long been a challenge facing Scotch College in Western Australia, a leading private school housing 130 live-in students, and a total student body of over 1,500. The ultimate aim was to form a collaborative and inclusive system to gather and share photographs and videos of school life with parents, students and staff.

When searching for a solution, Brad Tyrrell looked to ResourceSpace. As Dean of Information and Learning Technologies, Brad knew that Digital Asset Management software could form the basis of a multi-media portal accessible to everybody while selectively maintaining privacy. This system is now used jointly across both Scotch College and its sister school PLC, with another 1,100 students.

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He explains, “Parents, students and staff upload particular photos or videos they've taken of events around the College. The challenge was, how do parents get those to us? We had no mechanism of receiving photos and videos apart from them walking in or sending us a Dropbox link. Now they've been shown how to upload those files into the system, so they can take those photos, upload them straight into the gallery, and I can make them live that night.”





## Parents are proactively uploading

Keeping parents actively involved in recording the Scotch experience helps them to feel more closely connected with the education of their children.

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Brad notes, “The difference is that parents actually get to see what happens at school; they can login and download photos themselves, at full high quality. When there’s an excursion, parents see students on that excursion, and we record footage of our assemblies every week.”

## Enrichment through file sharing

This community approach to uploading and distributing assets not only benefits parents, but is also enjoyable for the student population, allowing them to document and share their school days, milestones, achievements, and social lives with their families and peers. Without ResourceSpace, staff struggled to provide students with access to the many photos and videos taken of them. As Brad recalls, “Staff would take photos of classroom work, an event or an excursion they were on and then think, “How are the kids going to get access to those photos if they want to?” The teacher would have to put them into a shared file or download them.”

ResourceSpace allows students at Scotch to browse the extensive library of photos and videos of themselves and friends without having to download or save each file.

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“Before ResourceSpace, you couldn’t just view the photos; that was probably the biggest thing, that there was no web interface to simply view, when the kids don’t want to download them all the time. It’s an easy way to share photos without having to take those extra steps.”

## Protecting privacy with sensitivity

While Scotch College is keen for its students to enjoy viewing snapshots of school life, ResourceSpace still allows the team to tightly control the content that each age group is exposed to. Being an educational facility, the ability to review what is published and determine the audience is vital. Brad expands, “When files are uploaded, an email is generated to me or my team and we review the photos before making them live. At that time, we choose who can see those photos; we don’t let the junior school boys and girls see senior school photos because the content is just not for them, and we have students flagged as ‘do not publish’, for those boys who are the sons of judges or police commissioners, for example. Every photo needs to be looked at.”

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ResourceSpace gives Brad the level of authority he needs; “I can map different groups, and decide that only the junior school can see these photos, or only the senior school or middle school can see these photos. Maybe marketing wants to control these photos, so only they can see them; I can control that via my user groups. And that’s probably the greatest difference from any of the other products out there, that’s the biggest thing, controlling the fact that nothing goes live unless I make it live.”

Before using ResourceSpace, Scotch College struggled with these issues of file approval. “We couldn’t control who could see assets. We couldn’t deal with uploading and downloading and then controlling outside access for our parents or our students without releasing content in ways we didn’t want it released.”



# Modern software for a heritage institution

Upon arrival four years ago, Brad found the existing system of managing such files at Scotch to be basic; “When I arrived at Scotch, and I guess in every school that I’ve been in, the way in which we stored photos and videos was either in a shared drive or location that was a traditional sort of file share. So dropping it, saving files to those locations and retrieving them was problematic - people would put them everywhere, not name them correctly and there was no metadata attached to particular assets.”

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ResourceSpace appealed to Brad and the Scotch College team due to the open source nature of its software and the on-premises hosting package that could be supplied. “The reason open source was appealing was that somebody is always writing on the internet about how to use or do something new with it. Because those people are contributing on a wiki or in a forum, it means you can Google most of the answers yourself. If it were proprietary, it’d be different because you’d be dealing with a help desk-style closed support system.

It was also available on-premises, so we don’t have to worry about privacy aspects of photo storage. The sheer volume of photos we upload and the space we knew we’d be taking up required it to be on-site. The true test was to find someone to help us customise it, and that’s when we did a bit of a search around and found ResourceSpace. It was a company that was providing enterprise-level support, instead of having to allocate my developers at a cost to the school.”

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It's also important for Brad's team to make the customisations it needs to get ResourceSpace looking and working in the way that's right for Scotch College and PLC; "One of the best features is being able to customise information down to whatever level I want for an upload. I can keep adding as many fields as I like for people to fill in - and that's handy for us - especially as we have two schools using it. If an event is going on and it's a house event, I need to make sure uploaders can choose their school, sub-school, house, and whether or not it was a special event. I can customise all that to my heart's content. The number of customisations you can make with it is endless. We don't even scratch the surface of the number of things it could do."

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Although Brad does not consider Digital Asset Management software to be in widespread use throughout the education system, he recommends it as a valuable tool in bringing schools together with students and their parents; "I think everybody wants to do it; a lot of schools would really like to do it more, they just don't know how to do it well. I've had a lot of schools contact me to ask, "How do you do it?"

For Scotch College and PLC, ResourceSpace continues to be the answer: "It's great for making sure everyone can contribute to one shared space."

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## Scotch College

Founded in 1897, Scotch College is one of Australia's leading schools for boys. Throughout its long history, the school has upheld a tradition of excellence that is reflected in a wide and progressive curriculum.

<http://www.scotch.wa.edu.au>

## ResourceSpace

ResourceSpace is the web-based Digital Asset Management software of choice for leading commercial, academic and not-for-profit organisations, offering a convenient, productive and easy to use solution for organising and sharing files. We help organisations improve efficiency, encourage collaboration, and free up time and resources.

[www.resourcespace.com](http://www.resourcespace.com)



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