



BIBLIONASIUM CASE STUDY

Three Main Takeaways

- Reviews are an excellent tool for accountability, reflection, and strengthening the reading community.
- School-wide usage provides students with a history of books they have read throughout the years.
- The simplicity of Biblionarium's user interface allows for speedy and straightforward implementation.



Karen Garner

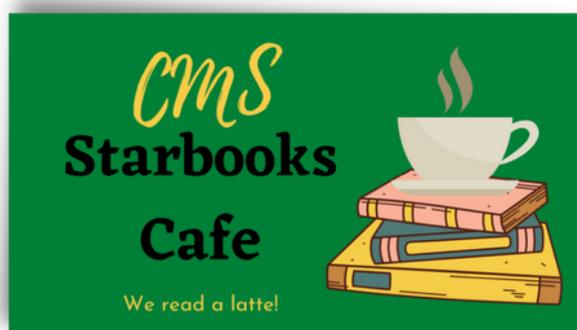
At Couch Middle School, Media Specialist **Karen Garner** works hard to teach students the importance of reading—a value shared by her school. In fact, Gwinnett County Public Schools, the largest district in Georgia with more than 188,000 students, purchased a district-wide subscription to Biblionarium in an effort to achieve that goal. As Ms. Garner approaches the end of her second year using the platform, she appreciates the sense of community Biblionarium has fostered. “Our emphasis on reading, and using Biblionarium to support that, says that we’re a reading community. Reading is important here.”

“The fact that students can see the reviews of other kids in their class and can get suggestions of good books to read has helped.”

Ram Reading Challenge

Ms. Garner uses Biblionarium to support the Ram Reading Challenge, a school-wide initiative that requires students at each grade level to complete a certain number of

book reviews to earn a prize. Rather than log reading minutes, she felt writing reviews was a better way to hold students accountable. Reviews also require students to reflect and think more deeply about the books they have read. Students who meet the challenge requirements are rewarded with prizes that change each semester. Whether students earn a visit to Starbooks Cafe—a Starbucks-style experience where students are treated to hot chocolate and pastries while relaxing with a board game—or a free book from the Book Mobile, the goal is to celebrate reading.



The reading and writing skills practiced during the Ram Reading Challenge reinforce what students are learning in the classroom. The students' digital bookshelves are also

helpful in getting a sense of student reading interests and accomplishments. “Biblionasium is an easy way for students, teachers, and media specialists to keep up with what students are reading.”



Biblionasium serves as a bridge between the school’s media center and its classrooms. Ms. Garner facilitates the review program and receives support from the students’ language arts teachers.

Valuable Features

When Ms. Garner was first introduced to Biblionasium, she wasn't sure if the kid-friendly design would be appealing to the discerning tastes of middle schoolers. She quickly realized that tween and teen students were not deterred by the bright colors, and they enjoy the GIFs. “Initially, I didn’t think the newsfeed was going to be very useful, but I actually use it to get book suggestions myself. I really like it.”

At the start of the school year, Ms. Garner gives the students a mini lesson to walk them through the process of adding books to their shelves and writing reviews. Ease of use is a huge bonus. Without a steep learning curve, Ms. Garner can quickly get students started, and classroom teachers are able to easily adapt to using Biblionasium for their individual needs and goals.



“I really like that the bookshelves stay with students from year to year, so they can look back and see a record of what they’ve read. I also love the report feature!”

Regardless of how educators choose to use Biblionasium, a common thread in school- and district-wide usage is the ability to maintain students’ reading histories—evidence of the role reading has played throughout the years.