

Cataloging tool recommendation for Hillel UW

Gabor Por, 2007-01-09

I selected the following three programs to choose from for Hillel's library cataloging needs. Each has pros and cons and I was having a hard time making a selection, that's why I included the short feature list in this email. But ultimately I think Hillel should go with ReaderWare. It can handle importing data from lots of sources, exporting it in multiple formats and has a loan management features too. The only drawback that it doesn't handle other formats, such as CDs and DVDs. If it is important then we can go with the MediaMan, but that does not have loan management capabilities. (We may be able to custom design around that.) MediaMan's advantage is that it can run on two computers. Please review the list of features below

ReaderWare (\$40)

- Can add/sort by catalog number
- Loan management options
- Imports from 2 dozen sources
- Exports in versatile, multiple formats
- Doesn't catalog CDs, DVDs
- No field to input book's language
- Has shopping cart option for planning purchases of books
- Has 30 day trial version
- <http://www.readerware.com/rwFeat.html>

BookCollector (\$40 - \$60 with support and CD)

- Can add/sort by location in lieu of catalog number (but the input field is several clicks away)
- Loan management options
- Imports from 2 dozen sources
- Exports in versatile, multiple formats
- Doesn't catalog CDs, DVDs, but possible to buy bundle to do that.
- No field to input book's language
- Lots of fields for extra content, e.g. for plots, notes, links, rating...
- Installs only on one computer.
- Has option for status field (Not in Collection, Wanted, In Collection, For Sale)
- Trial version (with up to 100 items)
- <https://www.collectorz.com/book/>

MediaMan (\$40)

- Can add/sort by custom catalog number
- No loan management options
- Imports from two sources only (Amazon and Library of Congress)
- Exports in versatile, multiple formats
- Catalogs CDs, DVDs too
- No field to input book's language
- Extra custom fields
- Barcode reader integration
- Can be installed on two computers
- 30 day trial version
- <http://www.imediaman.com/products/mediaman/features.html>