

Mercy Ships International Operations

Tema, Ghana | 29 January 2007 – Home to over 300 crew members, including 31 kids under the age of 18, the 522 foot Mercy Ship is a floating community. Life onboard is often noisy and bustling. Trying to find a peaceful, quiet spot can be impossible.

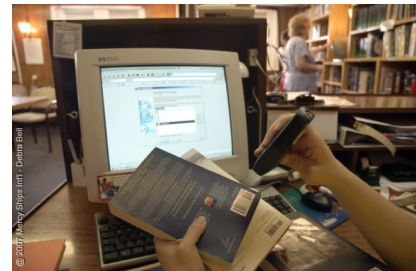
The onboard academy and library maybe small but they are important aspects of this vessel. The library is an essential quiet retreat for many crew members, while the academy library allows students the chance to study in peace and quiet.



Over a number of months now, the librarians have worked to scan and log the 4,000 books, 350 VHS and 100 DVDs in the small library. Librarian and housekeeper, Melinda Musil from the States is one of the 300 crew members.

With a big smile on her face, Melinda says “thank you” to Serialio.com. Their generous donation of **LaserChamp** scanners to Mercy Ships is beginning to greatly improve and develop not only the library but the school academy as well.

“The **LaserChamp** scanner makes the Librarians life much easier,” says Cathy Warkentin, head librarian. “We are able to track each book so much more easily.”



The new equipment is saving hours of typing. No longer do the librarians have to manually enter all the data into the computers. As the system is gradually being set up, Melinda explains how it has already helped so much.

“Before when people wanted to find a book we had to look through streams of paper, the sign-out system was so basic and nothing was even in alphabetical order. But the other day someone wanted to find a book on John Wesley. I typed in a keyword and we found a book immediately.”



The principle of the academy describes a similar experience with the lending library.

“I am looking forward to scrapping the old fashioned sign-out system and installing the new software. It’ll make borrowing books so much more efficient for the children.”

Thanks to Serialio.com, Mercy Ships have the chance to gradually update their old system and establish the new cataloguing process. Both library and academy are thankful to Serialio.com for providing the crew with this opportunity.

Diane Rickard

Director Media Relations

Mercy Ships International Operations

<http://www.mercyships.org/site/apps/nl/content2.asp?c=agLOI4OFKrF&b=1364771&ct=3618195>