

# The University of Central England's Digital Library: A Window on the World of Community Knowledge

**Formtek Business Application Solution:  
Content Management**



## A Formtek Customer Story

# The University of Central England's Digital Library: A Window on the World of Community Knowledge



During the 1990s, UCE Library Services worked hard to enhance the quality of its services and to move forward with electronic delivery of information. However, it was aware that there was an ongoing demand for increased flexibility on the way it supported the needs of its users.

The concept of a 'digital library' was identified as a means to address the required flexibility. The digital library system provides a means of integrating digitized text, image, audio and video resources. It provides around the clock access across a network to authorized users wherever they are located, whenever they need them. And it allows students to work at their own pace and provides the opportunity for them to return and review specific resources as many times as they wish without the pressure of time and access that would be experienced if they needed to borrow a physical item from a library.

### The Business Challenge

The University of Central England (UCE), located in Birmingham, England, is committed to widening participation in Higher Education. This means that a percentage of the students come from non-traditional backgrounds.

In 2000, The University of Central England, [www.uce.ac.uk](http://www.uce.ac.uk), received funding to install a digital library for the university. Following a rigorous selection process, LSC Group was selected to supply the electronic library system. LSC Group, [www.lsc.co.uk](http://www.lsc.co.uk), is a Formtek Partner which develops and deploys the Formtek | Orion software as a key enabler for business process improvement strategies based on the sharing of data exploited via collaborative working environments. The UCE library system was based upon the Formtek | Orion Content Management Business Application Solution and provided many features of value to UCE, including those of security, storage, scalability, document, content management, and integration and collaboration capabilities.

### The Formtek Solution

The University of Central England Electronic Library (UCEEL), was designed to help support research, teaching and learning across the university. The technology behind UCEEL is based upon the deployment of Formtek | Orion – the only such deployment in the higher education sector anywhere in the world. UCEEL supports a population of 24,500 students – with a high percentage of part-time and distance learners – and 2,500 staff based over seven campuses.

## Providing access to a range of materials the UCEEL has now reached a level of maturity that includes video and audio collections and sophisticated navigation tools that help students to easily navigate and drill down.

Content is created almost exclusively in-house, with UCEEL producing and hosting original, or content which has never before been digitized – including in-copyright material reproduced from tutor and student work. UCEEL has grown steadily with access to special collections, full-text student dissertations, visual images and illustrations. UCEEL provides access to extracts and chapters from key textbooks and journal articles as requested by course tutors. It is also the central repository for all university-produced exam papers (from 1997 onwards), and abstracts of UCE Research Degrees (PhD and MPhils).

### The Results

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The Formtek | Orion-based digital library:

- Provides secure, controlled, web-based access to primary material.
- Enriches learning and levels the playing field by giving access to content never before digitized and in high demand.

- Facilitates access to multi-media material including lengthy streamed video and audio.
- Supports distance learning and learning at the student's own pace.
- Allows preservation of special collection material in e-surrogate formats.

In early 2005, integration work with the electronic library catalogue went live, allowing students for the first time to be able to search and retrieve UCEEL documents and files directly from the library catalogue web interface.

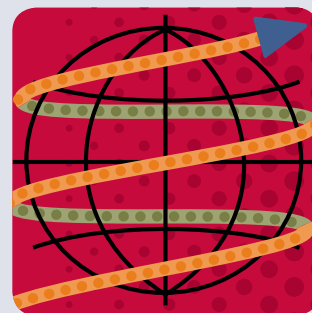
UCE feels that they are unique in the deployment of Formtek | Orion streaming lengthy high-quality video and audio files over an intranet, extranet or the Web. The UCE academic and student community currently are testing the delivery of streamed video and audio, utilizing a specially integrated 'streaming' server.

UCE is committed to the development of UCEEL and considers UCEEL integral to its sustained development and success in supporting learning, teaching and research across the University.

### Formtek Business Application Solution:

#### Content Management

Formtek helps you increase the power of your information by capturing, storing, and securely managing your organization's structured and unstructured content. With robust search capabilities, you can search, identify, and locate content in disparate repositories, Unix and Windows file systems, and mail servers. By combining a powerful search technology with a scalable and secure repository, users will find it easier to access and reuse existing information.





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#### **ABOUT FORMTEK**

For over two decades, Formtek has been providing mission-critical Enterprise Document and Content Management solutions and services to some of the most demanding industrial operations in the world. Our capabilities and experience, particularly in the areas of engineering drawing management, technical document management, and secure collaboration, have helped both small organizations as well as large global enterprises manage their most important information assets. Formtek solutions address real, day-to-day document management, content management, and records management requirements for worldwide customers in manufacturing, aerospace, defense, telecommunication, utility, and government.

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