



BAKER & TAYLOR  
A Follett Company

# CASE STUDY

YORK COUNTY  
TABB

**ANN JOHNSTON**  
*Cataloger*  
York County  
Public Library  
Yorktown, VA

## Baker & Taylor BTCat

A state-of-the-art library cataloging utility and database

*When York County Public Library's MARC record provider subscription was up for renewal, cataloger Ann Johnston knew it was the perfect time for a change. Frustrated by the inability to efficiently and accurately catalog book and AV materials, York County Public Library was eager to find a new solution that would meet its cataloging needs. A serendipitous conversation led to York's adoption of BTCat as part of its Early Adopter Program (EAP).*



### TIME FOR A CHANGE

As the only cataloger for York County Public Library's two-branch system, Ann Johnston relies on copy cataloging as much as possible to achieve a cost-effective and timely workflow. She found herself spending valuable time creating original MARC records with the library's previous provider - or importing brief records from the Library of Congress' catalog and updating them to full-level cataloging. The result: a backlog of uncategorized books.

With that subscription set to renew, the hunt was on for something better.

"We were frustrated," Johnston said. "Due to the size of our library and our budget constraints, it just seemed like there wasn't something perfect for us out there, and we'd have to settle for a product that was 'just okay' - and ease-of-use and versatility were things I did not want to give up."

But then, in a routine conversation about ordering materials, York's collection development librarian learned from the library's Baker & Taylor representative that the company was launching an EAP for BTCat. The decision was made to enroll York in a free, three-month trial period.



## ENHANCED PROCESSES THAT SAVE TIME AND MONEY

Johnston ran BTCat through its paces early on with a midsize shipment of books. She hoped to get through the shipment in at least the same amount of time it would have taken her with the library's previous service. She was thrilled when she set a new record for efficiency.

"The time spent importing and editing the MARC records for that shipment was cut by 40% compared to the same process performed using our previous provider's service with the same number of books," Johnston said. Plus, she noted that the content was substantially more complete, allowing for less time spent filling in tags that were left.

But the efficiencies didn't end there. "One of the most amazing, time-saving features is the ability

to run macros," Johnston said. "The macros, built in Python, were introduced by one of the support team members. Just one click of a button and tags you don't need disappear, tags you do need appear, or the data in the tag is automatically changed. As the only cataloger for our library, these types of time-saving shortcuts are a great benefit."

In addition, BTCat has multiple options for creating, editing, merging, and exporting MARC records. And because the interface is customizable, users can enable the features they need, disable features they don't need, and modify how other features are displayed.

"Even without any editing, the BTCat records are more complete than our previous provider's," Johnston said. "I knew within a few days of our trial that BTCat was the service for us."

## KNOWLEDGEABLE SUPPORT FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION

Adopting a new system can be overwhelming, so it was with a mix of excitement and nervousness that the York team took a deep dive into their switch to BTCat. But Johnston found any initial trepidation she had quickly vanished.

"When we were introduced to BTCat, I found its functionality fit exactly what I needed. It's so user friendly that I could jump in and use it after the short, simple introductory training provided," she said.

**"BTCat is the only product I would recommend for cataloging. The user-friendly interface is straightforward, allowing catalogers to jump in with ease. I believe the versatility of the product would be a perfect fit for any size library, from libraries with one cataloger like me, to multiple catalogers of every level."**

---

**ANN JOHNSTON**  
Cataloger, York County  
Public Library

---

## **“I knew within a few days of our trial that BTCat was the service for us.”**

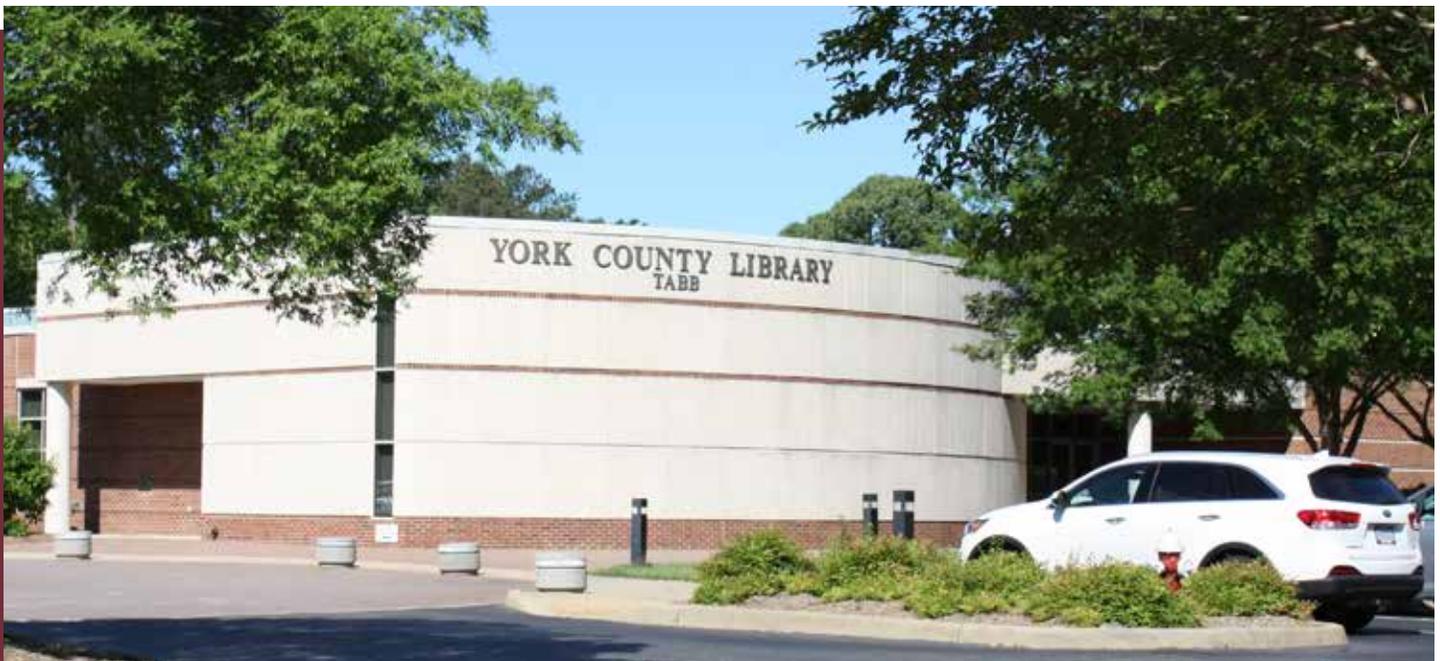
---

When questions arose, the support team was readily available to answer questions - from the most basic to the more complex. In addition, deep-dive training sessions into the full functionality of BTCat provided for robust understanding; plus, they were recorded for future use.

“The training and support I received is undeniably the best experience I’ve had,” Johnston said. “The trainers and support team are top-notch, their skill levels are highly advanced, and they possess strong knowledge of the product. I wish other

service providers we deal with offered the same hands-on experience that Baker & Taylor provides! This was the most profound factor that led to our decision to stay with BTCat.”

“BTCat is the only product that I would recommend for cataloging,” Johnston said. “The user-friendly interface is straightforward, allowing catalogers to jump in with ease. I believe the versatility of the product would be a perfect fit for any size library, from libraries with one cataloger like me, to multiple catalogers of every level.”



### **“DEPENDABLE. CUSTOMIZABLE. OUTSTANDING.”**

Johnston is thrilled to say that BTCat not only met York County Public Library’s needs, it exceeded them with 99.5% accuracy. From the quality of the records to the comprehensive support and training, she said she could sum up her praise for BTCat in three words: dependable, customizable, outstanding.

“If there are any libraries out there that are short-staffed, or find themselves with a substantial backlog, BTCat is the most cost-effective, time-saving, user-friendly product I’ve found - and the support is second to none.”

