



Case Study Scion, New Zealand

A library with many branches

Scion is a New Zealand Crown Research Institute that specialises in research, science and technology development for the forestry, wood and biomaterial sectors. It is also home to NZ's largest forestry-related image collection; a library consisting of digital images, slides, photographic prints, photographic negatives and colour transparencies.

Seeking smarter management

To meet the organisational demand for storing, searching and managing Scion's 200,000 + digital images in smarter and more effective ways, Knowledge Centre Manager Gerard Rooijackers initiated a research project which tested vendors and ultimately led to the implementation of Third Light's image management system.



Dr. Florian Goetsch (left) and Kirk Torr in one of Scion's award-winning laboratories.



We chose Third Light's media management system because it is intuitive:

- It has a web-browser interface;
- Its search engine is excellent;
- It automatically converts images to different sizes and formats;
- And its interface makes uploading, searching and downloading images easy.



– Deborah Gayle,
Scion Records & Information Management.

Supplying Solutions ➔ Third Light In Focus

Research commenced on the Scion campus in 1947. The institute works in partnership with industry, government, and Maori stakeholders to achieve 'Prosperity from trees'.

Our Third Light implementation

1. We decided how each metadata field would be used, then:
2. Established business rules detailing which images were to be captured in the system.
3. Created a preliminary vocabulary list.
4. Decided what images were to be initially migrated/uploaded.
5. Created a rollout strategy, taking into account Scion's size (350+ employees).

Mastering the migration

During the initial phase of the Scion software implementation, images held in the old Lotus Notes image library were migrated with existing metadata. Scion's Marketing and Communications department's large digital image collection was the second in line to be migrated.

Due to the huge volume of unmanaged images stored by staff on PCs throughout the organisation (estimated 200,000 images), we decided to do a phased roll out of the system for science groups. This allowed time to resolve any issues that might have cropped up.

Business rules determined which images were to be uploaded, such as images created as part of research. The person uploading the image is therefore responsible for entering sufficient metadata.

Captions and keywords were mandatory, as well as a 'history note' detailing what downloaded images were used for.



SCION 
forests · products · innovation

“ The scientists we work with appreciate the simplicity and usefulness of a central image repository with excellent search and upload functionality. ”

– Tracey Fenton,
Scion Records & Information Management.



Success With Software → User Advice

Scion partnered with Third Light in preparing its environment for the arrival of the new system.

Testing and training

User acceptance testing was carried out at all four Scion offices (Rotorua, Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch), which also tested the IT-infrastructure at each location. Training material was developed and training was provided to all scientists and support staff.

Future potential

Third Light's image management system makes it possible for Scion to plan for and implement an e-business extension that will make it easy for customers to search, select and buy images online.

Retrospectively adding files

While it is easy to follow business rules for current and newly created images, it is more difficult to determine what older images (in a variety of forms and formats) should be added to the system.



“ Microscopy can generate hundreds of images for a single piece of research,

so it's important to appraise the images held on various media by scientists, and choose which images are to be uploaded. ”

Third Light wishes to thank Deborah Gayle and Tracey Fenton from Scion, Rotorua for their time in providing feedback for this case study. All images courtesy of Scion.

About Third Light

Third Light is a software and internet services business based in Cambridge, UK. Our core business is to develop and host specialist solutions for digital media management, storage and collaboration, while minimising technical complexity. Key clients include Cambridge University, the United Nations, NASCAR, Virgin Group, Fujitsu and many other businesses. We have supplied web-based asset management tools to businesses since forming in April 2002.

Get your FREE trial today: thirdlight.com, or call 01223 475674 for a demonstration.

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Third Light's media management solutions are self-contained software products for corporations, media agencies and marketing teams, that allow digital content to be managed and stored, displayed and shared using the web. Third Light software has been widely deployed to solve many of the digital challenges that are common to all businesses, and is used in a wide range of sectors to simplify and improve the way that digital files are handled.

<https://www.thirdlight.com>