

# The American School of The Hague finds cost-effective solution with digital content



Wassenaar, Netherlands  
Type of School: International PreK-12  
Enrollment: 1,200

## THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF THE HAGUE'S CHALLENGE

The American School of The Hague (ASH), like other international schools, faced problems procuring print titles from the United States, including exorbitant shipping costs and customs logistics.

ASH had also grown dissatisfied with offering audiobooks via compact disc and preloaded device, as this had become costly due to the tendency of these resources to be lost, break or malfunction.

## THE DIGITAL SOLUTION

Middle school librarian Michele Velthuisen said **ASH chose OverDrive Education as its digital content solution in part because of its reputation as the trusted partner of more than 18,000 schools worldwide.** OverDrive also offered a superior user interface, eReading app and selection of popular juvenile and young adult titles, she said.



## THEIR RESULTS

Velthuisen said OverDrive has helped alleviate financial constrictions to growing ASH's library collection since the service was introduced at the school in 2013.

"OverDrive has worked with international schools across the globe to expand their recreational and educational reading offerings in a more cost-effective manner than traditional print," OverDrive Account Executive Steve Reyes said.

Because OverDrive eBooks and audiobooks are borrowed through a customized school-wide website, they can never be misplaced, stolen or damaged. Velthuisen said this has shown to be a significant improvement over ASH's prior lending practices, adding that many parents take advantage of this anytime, anywhere access to books for their own reading.

"24/7 online accessibility of OverDrive (titles) has been a great bonus," she said.

Velthuisen noted that another benefit of the OverDrive service has been the ability for ASH to give students, parents and educators more reading options without taking up valuable shelf space. Reyes said this is an advantage of digital content that has helped thousands of schools overcome physical library restrictions.

"eBooks provide a great alternative to their print counterparts," Velthuisen said.