

Date: Tue, 25 Jul 2006 12:24:44 -0400  
Reply-To: VIVA InterLibrary Loan Listserv <VIVAILL-L@LISTS.VCU.EDU>  
Sender: VIVA InterLibrary Loan Listserv <VIVAILL-L@LISTS.VCU.EDU>  
From: ["Harry M. Kriz" <Harry\\_M\\_Kriz@VT.EDU>](mailto:Harry_M_Kriz@VT.EDU)  
Subject: Standalone Odyssey simply works and it works simply

At the VIVA ILL Forum on Friday, we discussed Odyssey. The question arose as to why we aren't all using Odyssey for both borrowing and lending. Some said they don't use Odyssey because they could not afford ILLiad. It was pointed out that there is a standalone version of Odyssey, which I think no one had tried. Certainly I had not tried it, although Atlas Systems has been giving it away for more than a year.

It is worth repeating that standalone Odyssey is FREE. Yes, it really is FREE. As in there is absolutely no charge to download, install, and use the software.

Then some said that Odyssey standalone was difficult to install.

I began wondering if it could possibly be as difficult to install Odyssey as it is to install Ariel. Ariel 4 as the most difficult software I have ever tried to install in the past 25 years. I have spent many hours over the past couple of months trying to get Ariel 4 to work. The latest e-mail I had from Ariel Support before they stopped responding to my e-mail questions is that they don't know whether Ariel will work with our scanners or any other scanners. They seemed not interested in the fact that Ariel 3.4 did work with our expensive, high speed, automated scanners but that if we upgrade to Ariel 4.1.1 then our scanners become useless.

I already knew that turning on Odyssey in ILLiad was no problem at all. We are currently using Odyssey for borrowing and for document delivery. We simply turned it on and it worked with our different scanners.

I learned at the Forum that OhioLINK has established Odyssey as the state-wide electronic delivery standard. Odyssey is required for both borrowing and lending among OhioLINK libraries.

So this morning, I decided to try standalone Odyssey and see how difficult it might be to install.

I downloaded standalone Odyssey from the Atlas Systems web site at <http://www.atlas-sys.com/>

I also downloaded the two page instruction document (a welcome relief from hundreds of pages of Ariel documentation).

At 11:07 AM this morning, I launched the Odyssey standalone installation program.

At 11:35 AM, I sent my first Odyssey document to VPI.

It took me this long because I was making notes as the process progressed so I would know what I had done in case I had to go back and change something, which I did not.

Piece of cake. Everything worked simply. More importantly, Odyssey simply worked.

If anyone not using ILLiad would like to try Odyssey standalone to receive a document from my personal desktop computer (which serves as our Odyssey standalone test machine) or to send a document to me, please contact me and we'll set up a test.

--Harry

Harry M. Kriz, Director of Interlibrary Services, Virginia Tech (VPI)