



## Creating a Thriving Elementary School Library from the Ground Up

**FALDYN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
KATY, TX**

When Rachel Weatherford joined Faldyn Elementary School in Katy, Texas – 30 miles west of Houston – as its first-ever Library Media Specialist, she knew building a library from the ground up would be a considerable task. But it was a challenge Weatherford enthusiastically embraced, and one requiring a vendor that would be a true partner – at her side throughout the process and meeting all her myriad needs and expectations. Much to her relief, Weatherford quickly discovered one vendor that stood above the rest.

“After meeting with all of the vendors,” she says, “It was clear Follett Content was the company that would help me create the library I was envisioning.”

Not only would it be a formidable project in terms of scope, but the timeline also was tight. It was essential the entire process be completed in less than a month to ensure the library opened in time for the start of the new school year, Weatherford was confident Follett Content was up to the task.



“If you want to create a library filled with information and love, then Follett Content is the company for you!”

**RACHEL WEATHERFORD**  
*Library Media Specialist  
Faldyn Elementary School*

“It was going to be daunting to get more than 14,000 books delivered, unpacked, and on the shelves in just a few days before the students came into the building,” Weatherford says. “I was able to choose a delivery date for the books and a separate shelving date, due to the ongoing construction in the library.”

As delivery day approached, Weatherford remained a bit nervous that everything would go 100% smoothly, but any concerns were quickly alleviated.

“As the week approached that my books were being delivered, Follett Content sent me numbers for each box to lay out on my library shelves. Everything was so much easier than I could have ever imagined,” she says. “The books were unpacked, and all the garbage was removed before noon! I thought unpacking a book collection of our size would take days – not the case. I was in shock because I thought there would be so much more I had to do.”

## GENREFYING THE LIBRARY

As part of the project, it was of utmost importance to Weatherford to genrefy the library, fiction and nonfiction titles alike. “I sat down with my Follett Content representative and talked about the best way to make this happen,” she says. “He was able to get me in touch with someone who created all my genre categories. And since my campus is bilingual, it was also important that each category had a Spanish option.”

Once the genre categories were finalized, Weatherford says selecting books and getting them genrefied was surprisingly simple: Most of the books she selected were already assigned into one of her categories. For books that didn’t immediately pull up with a category, she was able to select from a convenient dropdown menu recommending the best fit.

## ORGANIZING THE LIBRARY

Integrating titles in an easy-to-find manner was paramount to students being able to easily find what they’re looking for.

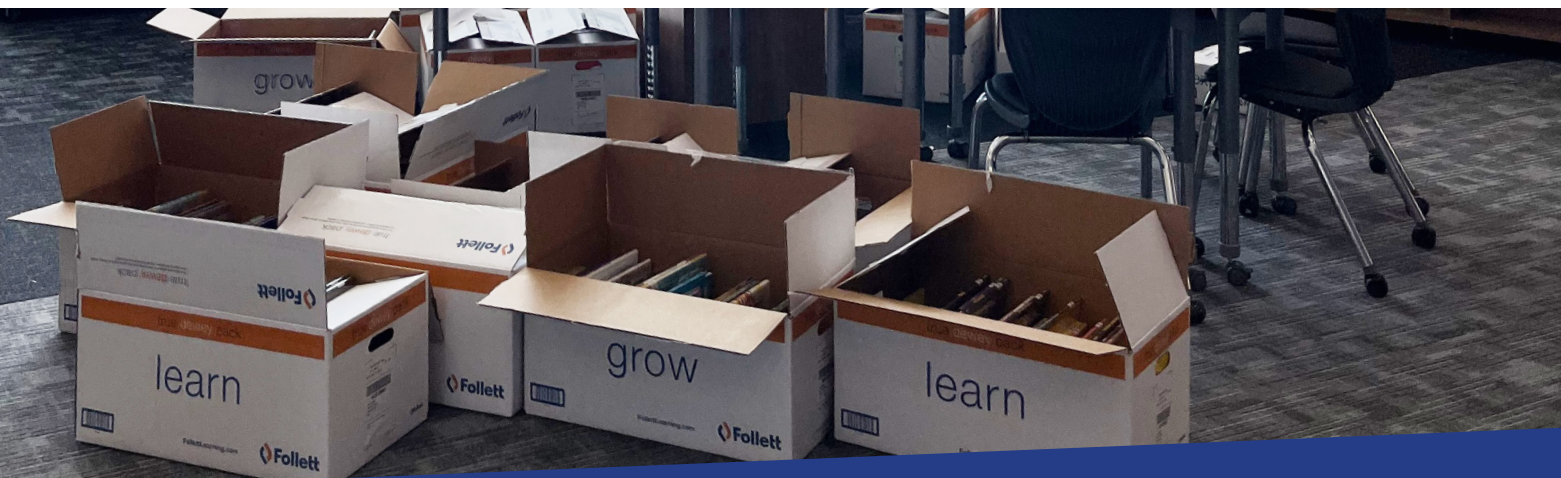
“It was also important that the English and Spanish titles were integrated together alphabetically,” she says. “For example, I wanted all nonfiction books about a certain topic, regardless of language, to be together. Follett Content was able to take the two different language sections for each category and pack them in boxes exactly how I wanted.” Having the library genrefied, Weatherford says, has been a welcome and popular atmosphere for students and teachers alike. “They use it easily and love it!”

With the biggest part of the project in her rearview mirror, Weatherford is now able to enjoy watching the students using the library, happily browsing for books with the library completely genrefied. “As they are walking around, I hear students shouting out to their friends to come and see this or that section,” she says.

For Weatherford, it’s a great source of pride – professionally and personally – to witness the elementary school’s library serving as the heart of the campus through literacy and discovery. And she’s proud the vendor she selected delivered as promised.

“I had the best experience working with Follett Content – from the creation of the collection to seeing it in real life on the shelves,” she says. “Every step of the way, I was able to talk with someone immediately, and they found a way to make it happen.

“If I sat down with fellow librarians getting ready to open a brand-new library,” Weatherford continues, “I’d tell them if they want to create one filled with information and love, then Follett Content is the company for you!”



Opening a new school library and looking for unmatched service?  
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