

# Sora



The Middle School at AISJ meets the language and curriculum reading needs of a diverse student population, originating from 70 countries, supporting the 'no student is left behind' best practice.

## OUR STORY

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A crisis can hit at any time. How you handle it, proves your mettle as a librarian. This case study looks at how the American International School of Johannesburg (AISJ)

gets a grip on the optimisation of its use of the OverDrive service and Sora Reading App.

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They create an all-inclusive reading culture by incorporating innovations to promote reading for pleasure, in addition to learning, as well as for understanding.

The librarian curates requested resources in real-time, sends the collection via the link enabling the teacher to use the Sora Reading App for class reading or listening to the required text.

AISJ uses OverDrive Marketplace local content space for students to upload informational text to showcase to parents personal work produced in class. By the same token exhibit work produced during flipped classroom.

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Implementing OverDrive and the Sora Reading App was a no brainer in all sections and campuses at AISJ. It is formerly accepted and included in a group of educational Apps to be used in the school. The inclusion of digital books in the traditional print library proved seamless. Of course the prevalent pandemic situation favours the service.

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Using the Sora App minimizes the damage of negative comments by fellow students. It provides a safe platform for students to read books of their own taste and at right level and genre of their choosing without being judged. Teachers/Librarians assign specific books advanced as well as to elusive readers to cater for their varied reading needs

## BLISSFULNESS!

“The Sora Reading App is great at supporting differentiation in the classroom. One example, a Chinese speaking student is assigned a multi-lingual book which the student can annotate, highlight, use the dictionary, translate a word and build vocabulary –ALL incorporated in one platform. Teachers love it for promoting inclusivity, catering for diversified reading needs, in essence making a positive impact on learning.” - *Middle School English Teacher at AISJ*.

“Automatic book checkout and return are a time saver. Zero number of missing books is every librarian's, students' and parent's dream come true. Safe online reading and the skyrocketing reading statistics is phenomenal. Teachers engage the students as they reflect on their learning and do celebrations by publishing the work done with parents and the community when there was no face-to-face interaction. OverDrive services and products are a win!”

- *Ms Zanele Mnguni: Middle School Librarian AISJ*

## IN A NUTSHELL!

To survive in the digital age and stay relevant, the AISJ Middle School library needed to be brave and innovative. It embraced both the physical and virtual content. The benefits of the digital library heightens the amount of choice, starts building a heritage for the coming generations, offers instant access to reading material and reading material retrieval while the e-books remain in pristine condition.

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“ Global access to our school through SORA 24/7 and 365 days of the year.

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“ Curated collections focus on themes put forward by the school.

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“ E-books in other languages: French and Spanish being of prime interest to AISJ (though there are e-books in many other global languages).

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“ Prolific readers receive awards at the end of each term. Everything in Sora or on physical shelf counts!

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“ Integration with other platforms also an advantage.

Source: Ms. Zanele Mnguni. Middle School Librarian, AISJ.

With tools to make every student's reading more pleasurable and a support team excited to help you! Getting started with Sora has never been made easier:

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