Comparing Mackin VIA to Follett Shelf for access to online content

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Mackin VIA | Follett Shelf |
| Student storage of ebooks | Backpack | Lists |
| # of fiction ebooks available | Currently few, but planning to increase to 1000s this summer | Currently 1000s. Most fiction ebooks are single-use checkouts |
| # of non-fiction ebooks available | 1000s from a variety of publishers. Currently, all Mackin content is multiple-access, lifetime use. | 1000s from a variety of publishers. Currently, most non-fiction is multiple-access, lifetime use. |
| # of vendors | For non-fiction, very similar to Follett. For fiction, this market is not developed yet. | For non-fiction, very similar to Mackin. For fiction, 1000s of vendors. |
| Apps available to dopwnload books to phones and other mobile devices? | Not currently but in development. | Yes, apps available for Apple and Droid devices. |
| Will Flash-based books open correctly on an iPad or other reader without flash? | No. Current books built with Flash will not open or won’t open correctly. As the book publishers create new ebooks, they are using HTML 5 instead of Flash so those books will open correctly. | Yes. All books open in Follett’s own reader, which provides the platform for Flash-based books. |
| Can access ebooks on a phone or a mobile device? | Yes with internet access, by going to the web address for Mackin VIA. | Yes with internet access, by going to the web address for Follett Shelf. |
| Downloadable Audio books available? | No | Yes |
| All ebooks open in the same reader? | Currently, for lifetime use books, No. Each book opens in the reader provided by the book publisher. Mackin will roll-out their own reader format when they offer fiction books. | Yes. All books open in Follett’s own reader so the format and tools available are always the same for the person reading the book. |
| Can books be put in to lists for individual classes to access? | Yes, you can create Groups (for each teacher, subject, or grade) and put certain books in each Group. | Yes, you can create Resource Lists (for each teacher, subject, or grade) and put certain books in each list. |
| What are the check-out options for ebooks? | For non-fiction, no need for a user to log in individually because these are all unlimited access. School logins are used now.  No fiction books yet to check out by individual students so this process is unclear. | Users log in to their own account to access all types of ebooks.  Books can be read online, checked out to the cloud, or checked out to a device. |
| Administrative Options | Mackin | Follett |
| How do I create student accounts for log-in so each student can check out an ebook? | We are working with IT to create an interface that will upload student account information to Mackin VIA. This info will be uploaded on a certain schedule (perhaps 3x yearly) so updates to individual student accounts will mainly be done manually. | The patron list from Destiny will interface easily with Follett Shelf. Your patron lists & logins will update regularly. When a student moves to another school, Follett Shelf will know right away. |
| Where do I go to update patron account and/or login information create Groups or Lists, manage settings & features, etc? | Go to Mackin.com then to My VIA tab. | In Follett Shelf, which looks a lot like Follett Destiny settings and options. |
| How do I run usage reports? | From Mackin.com, then the My VIA tab, then Usage. Statistics are not available for multiple-use, simultaneous access books and VIA does not have books for individual check-out yet. | In Follett Shelf, Reports tab looks very similar to Destiny’s Reports tab. |
| How do I “weed” the collection? | From Mackin.com, you can easily hide a title | From Follett Shelf, you can easily hide a title. |
| How do I keep my 1st graders from checking out an ebook for an older student? | No answer yet. | No answer yet. |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |