

News Release

AKAD HFBF College selects Arcplace

The largest college in Switzerland works with Arcplace to have all examinations documents scanned, archived and automatically evaluated.

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The largest college in Switzerland, AKAD Höhere Fachschule Bank und Finanz AG (HFBF), is working with Arcplace AG to electronically process its thousands of examination documents. Arcplace is renowned for its innovative information management and archiving solutions, which also include scanning, archiving and backup services. At AKAD HFBF, Arcplace supports the scanning and archiving of all examination documents, while simultaneously capturing the data during the scanning process. In this way, the multiple choice questions can be automatically evaluated. The first processing of examinations and their subsequent archiving has already been successfully completed.

The AKAD HFBF College is run on behalf of the Swiss Bankers Association. Students are taught at the college's premises in Basel, Bern, Chur, Geneva, Lausanne, Lugano, Lucerne, St. Gallen and Zurich in Switzerland's three national languages. AKAD HFBF uses a so-called «Blended Learning» approach, incorporating supported self-study, face-to-face lectures and transfer work at a place of employment, the aim being for the course to be flexibly implemented in step with actual practice and in conjunction with a professional placement program.

Twice a year, AKAD HFBF gives its 1,300 students written tests – so-called knowledge tests – in three different topic areas. These tests comprise 3,900 multi-page examination documents in total, which all have to be evaluated and archived at the college's main site in Zurich. As a result of this high volume of documents, in 2007 the College Management decided to implement a digital system for processing and archiving documents to replace its paper archive. In the summer of 2009, the Management decided to bring in a specialist to extend the solution. As the mass processing of documents is limited to two examination periods per year, setting up a dedicated internal team of specialists made little sense.

Because the examinations are conducted via multiple choice, Arcplace was able to offer AKAD HFBF an interesting option to extend their scanning system. While the examination questions are being scanned in, an extra step could be added so that the results could also be read out. Up until now, the college needed roughly three weeks and eight external staff to manually process the examination papers - which corresponds to 120 man-days in total. When the new Arcplace solution was run for the first time, the results were automatically generated within just 10 days. For the next examinations, the format of the examination questions are to be adapted so that all the test questions are placed on one side, which will accelerate the processing even further. Moreover, the Arcplace solution rules out the occurrence of manual errors. After the documents have been scanned in and the results automatically read out, the documents are electronically archived.

“Even in the tender preparation, the competence of Arcplace was apparent,” said Verena Suter, Head of AKAD HFBF. “Arcplace not only has the necessary specialist know-how and extensive project experience, but can also make all the necessary components and project steps transparent for non-technical people. From the organization of the project through to its timely completion, everything went exactly according

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to plan in the implementation of the solution. Working together with Arcplace was an all-round positive experience and we are already planning further collaborative projects."

"We are delighted to have AKAD HFBF as a customer. Their example highlights the added value that can be created by a digital archiving solution besides saving archiving space and offering faster access to documents" said Robbert Spierings, Managing Director of Arcplace AG.

Arcplace AG

Arcplace AG is a Swiss provider of Information Management and Archiving solutions for the enterprise market. By combining state-of-the-art technology with innovative delivery models, such as Managed Services, Arcplace is able to offer companies of all sizes high-end solutions at attractive prices. Arcplace's goal is to build solutions that comply with relevant laws and regulations, while reducing overall IT costs and boosting end-user productivity. Alongside its solutions, Arcplace offers specialized consulting services to help organizations in all the phases of an Information Management and Archiving project.

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