Authentication Options for Schools

OverDrive provides safe and secure authentication options for your OverDrive-powered website. Whether providing seamless access to your existing LDAP server, ILS/LMS, or using a hosted option from OverDrive, you can offer users and staff streamlined access to eBooks, audiobooks, and videos.

**LDAP Authentication** – Allow network sign in integration
OverDrive can authenticate users with your LDAP server. Once you enable OverDrive access, the username/password entered at the OverDrive-powered website is passed to LDAP to verify the user is valid. Using LDAP allows your users to borrow items with their existing network username/password.

**Direct ILS/LMS Authentication** – Authentication via an existing library catalog
Using an ILS/LMS such as Atriuum, Alexandria, Destiny, or SirsiDynix, etc., OverDrive can send authentication requests via protocols such as SIP2, PatronAPI or RPA. Once you enable OverDrive access to your server, a user can log in to your OverDrive-powered website with their library card number. Note: Some ILS/LMS vendors require an additional add-on module to support direct authentication with OverDrive.

**Library Card Manager™** – Upload card numbers to an OverDrive-hosted portal
OverDrive can authenticate your users with Library Card Manager, an OverDrive-hosted portal that enables remote authentication for users. You can upload user credentials by batch upload or card-by-card. Once a user’s credentials are added to the portal, that user can check out digital titles at your OverDrive-hosted site. As new cards are issued or statuses change, you can add, remove, or edit as appropriate.

**Custom HTTP Authentication** – Authentication via web server
Custom HTTP Authentication allows OverDrive to authenticate users by sending a request to your web server. When a user attempts to sign in at the OverDrive-powered website, an Authentication Request is submitted to the web server and the web server returns an XML Authorize Response indicating the status of the user.

**Federated Authentication** – Authentication via SAML v2.0
OverDrive can authenticate users with a Federated Authentication server using SAML v2.0. Once the server is linked with the OverDrive-powered website, the sign-in action will direct the user to the authentication server to enter their credentials. The authentication server will then pass back an encrypted response as to whether the user is authenticated on the network. The server only needs to pass OverDrive one identifier unique to each user, such as an email address. Common federated identity providers include Shibboleth, ADFS, Ping Identity, and Okta.

For more information on OverDrive’s authentication options, email schools@overdrive.com.
Existing partners can contact their Account Specialist for additional information.