

Iowa's Shared Library Automation System

The State Library of Iowa announced in March that we are launching a new initiative – development of a voluntary, statewide, shared automation system, open to Iowa libraries of all types.

What follows is a list of the assumptions about the development of such a system:

- I) The State Library will create a statewide “borderless library” that provides equal access to information for all Iowans
- II) The State Library will create it using open source ILS software called Evergreen, that was developed for the Georgia PINES project by the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS)
- III) The State Library will develop this system for Iowa libraries with our own staff with input from committees of interested Iowa librarians and staff
- IV) Libraries will get an integrated library automation system developed for consortium
 - a) The software is Evergreen, a web-based, open source ILS
 - b) Current modules:
 - i) Circulation
 - ii) Catalog
 - iii) Cataloging
 - c) Future modules in development
 - i) Serials
 - ii) Acquisitions
 - iii) Course reserves
 - iv) Self-registration
 - v) Self-check
 - vi) Credit card processing
 - vii) Batch record import/export
- V) Participation in this shared automation system will be voluntary
- VI) Libraries of all types may participate
- VII) The rate of growth of our system must be regulated
- VIII) Non-automated libraries can join
- IX) The State Library will host the IT infrastructure
- X) Libraries must supply the workstations and maintain a high speed Internet connection
- XI) The public catalog will be shared and available over the Internet
- XII) Libraries will acquire and process their own items, but will catalog the items through the shared catalog
- XIII) Libraries can maintain current collections
- XIV) The statewide system will have one, common library card
- XV) The patron database will be shared
- XVI) The system will offer a default set of circulation policies which can be changed by local libraries to reflect current practice
- XVII) The State Library will provide training for local library staff
- XVIII) The State Library will provide telephone support whenever libraries are open
- XIX) The system will be designed and developed by Iowa libraries. Many decisions will be made about how the system will work by a democratic process of librarians serving on committees. Some of the anticipated committees are:
 - a) Administrative rules – to set rights, permissions and security
 - b) Advisory – to advise the State Library on strategies for development and maintenance
 - c) Cataloging – to set standards for bibliographic records entered into the database
 - d) Circulation – to set the default circulation policies
 - e) Marketing – to sell and promote the system
 - f) Training – to design and implement staff training
 - g) Transition – to develop a method to move libraries from their current system over to the new shared system
- XX) The cost of this project is determined by the staff that will be added to the State Library and the equipment needed to run it
- XXI) Minimum staff needed:
 - a) 2 developers
 - b) 1 program manager
 - c) 2 trainers/consultants
 - d) 1 support specialist
- XXII) The money for this system will come from participating libraries and other funding sources
 - a) participating libraries will contribute an amount determined by a formula, but will not exceed what they are currently paying to maintain their existing ILS
 - b) Other funding sources include:
 - i) State funds
 - ii) LSTA funds
 - iii) Grants (special one-time funding for transition only)
- XXIII) The State Library has appointed an initial Advisory group made up of representatives from all types and sizes of libraries as well as 3 LSA staff
- XXIV) Marie Harms is the contact for this project