

Consortial Reports

CARLI/I-Share

No report.

Cooperative Computer Services (CCS)

- CCS has joined the Innovative Development Partner Program. Development of Vega Discovery is currently underway. The product is available for Sierra standalone libraries now, and development for Polaris and consortia customers is moving forward.
- CCS has received 10 responses to our website RFP, which we will begin reviewing the week of December 14. Thanks to RAILS and PrairieCat for sharing their experience with vendors with Kathleen Weiss, User Experience Specialist. Extra thanks to Brian Smith for his time discussing L2 integration and other functionality.
- The Long Range Planning has recommended a three-year strategic plan to Governing Board. The board will review the plan in January.
- Executive Committee has approved an updated salary schedule, to go into effect January 1. Working with HR Source on benchmarking was a positive experience. I appreciated the diversity of positions they compared our job descriptions to and feel confident that we are (or will be with some minor adjustments) compensating employees appropriately.
- 15 CCS libraries have gone fine free in calendar year 2020. 21 of 28 libraries are now fine free ([list](#)). CCS will be coordinating a second bulk fine waive with Innovative in January 2021. This is an opportunity for newly fine free libraries to clear patron accounts with minimal staff intervention.

Pinnacle Library Cooperative (PLC)

- In November, Pinnacle upgraded to the newest version of Polaris, Polaris 6.6. The new version of Polaris contains several updates for Leap, the web-based version of the ILS. At this point, almost all public services functions have been implemented in the web app. By the end of 2021, Innovative plans to have Technical Services and System Administration added as well.
- Innovative has invited Pinnacle to participate in its development partner program for their next-generation discovery solution, Vega Discover. We are currently in negotiations, but the current plan is to spend most of 2021 configuring the software, with a soft launch in the Fall/Winter and a full replacement of our OPAC in the Spring/Summer of 2022. The most notable feature in the new discovery layer is the work-level rollups that combine multiple formats of a title into one entry.
- Many of our libraries have been working with local school districts to provide library cards to students at nearby schools. With data from the school's registration system, Pinnacle creates

patron accounts in the ILS and the library/school provides these new cards to the students. This year, the "Student Success" program, which was launched by the White Oak Library District last year, has been expanded to include the large Valley View school district in Bolingbrook and Romeoville. In total, 15,185 Valley View students were issued library cards to a Pinnacle library. Other Pinnacle libraries are currently working with their schools to provide similar access either through a bulk import or on an individual basis.

PrairieCat

- PrairieCat is nearing completion of our FY22-25 Strategic planning process. The finalized plan will be presented to our Delegates Assembly at our January meeting.
- PrairieCat continues to work with IMRF in our effort to rejoin the pension plan for FY22. We have cleared several hurdles and are now awaiting final cost analysis.
- Putnam County School District, a current member, has elected to have their primary school added to the system. We have begun work on that project. Lostant Community library, a new member, continues to work towards integration.
- Marengo-Union Library District just opted to join PrairieCat, and their official IGA approval will occur at our Jan. 27th Delegates Assembly. They will join us as a fully participating member.
- The PrairieCat mobile app has launched, and we recently added five new members, bringing the total libraries participating to 43. This project is opt-in, and the provider is Capira, Inc. The integration of curbside services into the app is also complete and will be launched shortly. Previously, Capira curbside was only available on the web.
- Migration of our support and library homepage websites to Cherry Hill hosting has begun. This project should wrap up in the next two weeks.

Resource Sharing Alliance NFP (RSA-NFP)

- With the changes to library services and many libraries moving back to curbside, RSA has spend a good amount of time reworking notice text for lots of our libraries. We've also been working with our 44 school libraries as they navigate the in-school, partial in-school, and fully virtual teaching styles. Sometimes those change on a weekly basis.
- We continue to help libraries go fine free with another one of our largest members going fine free on 1 Dec. For the most part, this has gone very smoothly for all the libraries participating.
- RSA's has hired a new Member Services User Experience Coordinator who will start in January. This will get us fully staffed again. This position is one of our hardest to train and we plan to do a combo of 1 or 2 days a week in the office with one other person and scheduled virtual training. For the technical side of the position are many SirsiDynix trainings available all the time, so we'll be able to keep them busy learning. On the plus side, we need a new RSA website and having someone with no RSA experience makes for a completely different set of eyes on the design.
- We continue to run several online trainings and committees each month. In January we'll start a new Membership Structure committee to redesign RSA's membership levels into something more modern and fitting with our current suite of products and services. We offered a 3-day

basic cataloging workshop which has proven very popular and we'll run that monthly until demand wains.

- Finally, our new help desk goes live January 12th, ready or not! It's hard to learn a new help desk/CRM/task manager when you aren't actually using it. We've spent some staff time reviewing and playing, and have several scheduled group and one-on-one trainings through the go-live date. Then we'll break it, figure out what broke, fix it, and move forward. We're excited about the stats and overall view of our services that will come from this. We're migrating much of our operation over to Salesforce which will allow us to track things we've wanted to, but couldn't efficiently before now.

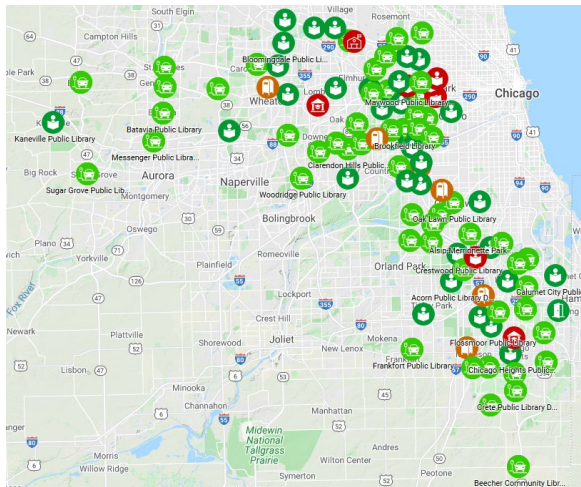
Rock River Library Consortium (RRLC)

No report.

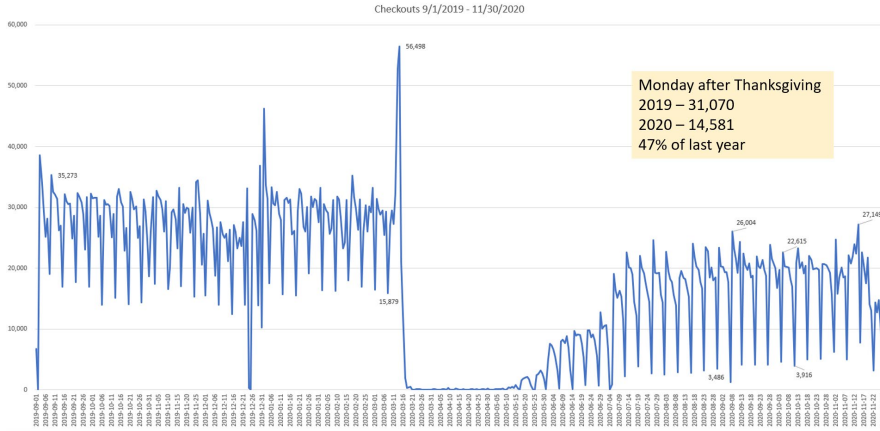
System Wide Automated Network (SWAN)

COVID-19 Response

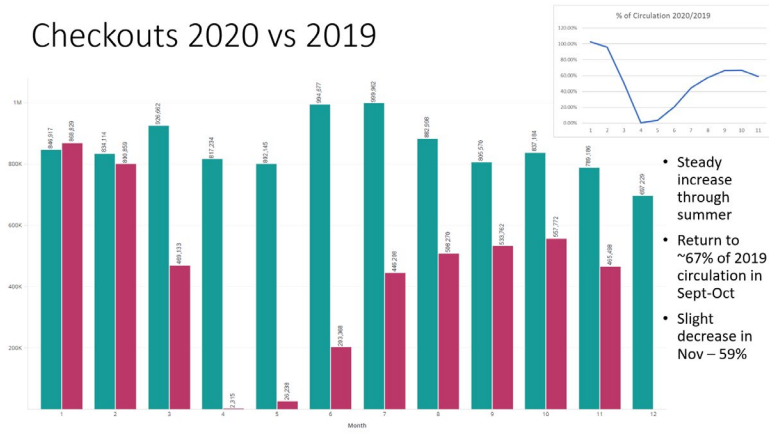
SWAN has created a public map that is categorized by service status. Libraries desired an at glance view of the libraries either closed, open but performing curbside, or fully open to the public.



SWAN usage trends show overall libraries circulating around 67% of last year's totals. Holds placed however are pretty close to the levels of 2019, but with the fill rate of holds not keeping up with demand.

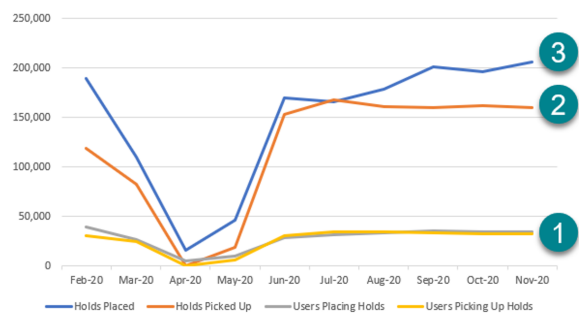


Checkouts 2020 vs 2019



Hold Placement & Pick-up: Feb-Nov. 2020

1. Number of Users placing and picking up holds has stabilized and matches pre-pandemic numbers (~34,000/mo)
2. Hold pick-ups steady since June (avg ~160,000/mo)
3. Since pandemic, holds placed outpace filled holds



Aspen Discovery Project

SWAN is piloting the Aspen Discovery website as a possible replacement of the current Enterprise OPAC. We will be running a pilot with seven libraries to run beta versions of the new catalog within the library, with planned usability testing with public library users.

Milestone

Kickoff

Target Dates

December 14th, 2020

Pilot lead training	December 2020 - January 2021
Beta catalog configuration	December 2020 – January 2021
Configuration and development	February 2021 – March 2021
Research activities	February 2021 – March 2021
Library staff training	January 2021
Beta launch	January/February 2021
Catalog decision and board approval	April 2021

SWAN100 Project

SWAN completed the data migration for the libraries Glenside, Roselle, and Warrenville Public Library Districts into the consortium. The libraries went live on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. This migration project was organized under the “SWAN100” as the consortium is now 100 libraries. The SWAN consortium now serves a combined service population total of 1.9 million within a 775 square mile area.

SWAN100 project highlights:

- Migrations from three standalone systems on three different ILS with three individual data loaders within SirsiDynix’s project team
- Library training conducted 100% online by SWAN staff with sessions recorded
- New online interactive training for cataloging and circulation developed using Articulate Storyline 360 and Rise 360
- Go-live support provided with a combination of on-site staff and online rooms for meeting and screen sharing
- Library welcome kits with large maps of the SWAN library service area to display to patrons, inflatable swans for library promotion, and bookmarks for distribution to patrons informing them about the resources available to them
- A new technique where resource sharing is configured for the new libraries where the first 30 days is set to only borrow material from other libraries, which helps ease library staff into a consortium setting, with a flexible future date set for lending material afterwards to the full membership
- A cost analysis of the SWAN100 library’s total expenses supporting a standalone arrangement show on average a \$60,000 in annual savings after joining SWAN.

Budget Planning

The SWAN budget planning has started with an early draft of its budget. There will be a membership meeting held in February with a final budget approval at the March 4, 2021 SWAN Quarterly meeting.