

ILS PROCESS  
PRIORITIES AND TIMELINE

*updated 8/26/09*

**Benefits of migrating to a new Integrated Library System (ILS):**

- Enhanced user-friendliness of the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC)
  - User-friendly language and design
  - Effective retrieval of information, including integration of databases through a federated search
  - Improved customer service for 2,765 circulations per day
- Anticipated annual cost savings of \$10,000-\$20,000 over the current system through the South Dakota Library Network (SDLN)

**Prioritized features of a new ILS:**

Priorities for consideration in selecting a new (ILS) include:

- Self-service features
  - Self check-out, self check-in, online registration
- Online credit card payment capability
- Online catalog enhancements – kids’ catalog, relevancy ranking, patron-initiated reviews, RSS feeds, suggestions for alternate searches, spell-checking
- Auto-dialer for notifications

These features have been available in other products the ILS market for the past 4-5 years. They have either not been available or have not been fully functional with the current ILS from ExLibris, as provided by SDLN.

**Timeline of ILS review:**

1989

- Implementation of a locally developed ILS through the South Dakota Library Network

2002

- Selection of current system (Aleph system from ExLibris) by SDLN member libraries
  - RCPL voted against this system due to its academic library focus
  - Siouxland Libraries are not users of the Aleph system
- Monthly meetings with SDLN to discuss problems with the system
  - Proposed changes were based on public library needs
    - RCPL was unsuccessful in moving the changes through the consortium

2005

- The Strategic Plan was updated, and included a goal for a intuitive, mobile, and user-friendly library services for all ages, with the specific objective of acquiring and implementing an Integrated Library System for enhanced patron access

March 2008

- Vendor review at the Public Library Association conference

October 2008

- Contracted with an ILS consultant

January 2009

- Library Board and staff members attended an American Library Association conference session related to integrated library systems
- First meeting of the Strategic Plan workgroup for the ILS
- Began initial review of ILS applications and vendors

June 2009

- Narrowed list of ILS vendors to four
- Workgroup began contacting public library customers of the four ILS vendors being considered

July 2009

- Initiated weekly meetings with SDLN Executive Director and staff for resolution of problems with current ILS (Aleph system from ExLibris)
- Staff attended American Library Association conference to meet with vendors and have hands-on opportunity with systems
- Began first of four in-house vendor demonstrations to the Strategic Plan workgroup

August 2009

- Discontinued weekly meetings with SDLN at their request
  - Information will be shared by means of an e-mailed work matrix
- Continued with in-house vendor demonstrations

September 2009

- Final in-house vendor demonstrations

**Next steps:**

- One-time implementation funding
  - Proposed CIP funding of \$95,000
  - Hardware and systems software
- RFP / bid process
- Vendor selection
- System-wide implementation for:
  - OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog)
    - Database integration through a federated search
  - Inventory control
  - Circulation (check-out and patron database systems)
  - Cataloging