

## UPDATE ON MCPL STUDY OF WVLS AND SCLS

To fulfill the MCPL Task Force charge to investigate alternative system services and the merits of membership in the South Central Library System (SCLS), monthly meetings continue to be held one hour prior to meetings of the MCPL Board. What follows is an update to the information shared just prior to the March 16 MCPL Task Force meeting.

### March 16, 2020 MCPL Task Force Meeting

The information packet for the [March 2020 Task Force Meeting](#) included the meeting agenda and minutes from the February 17 meeting.

In preparation for this meeting, WVLS and SCLS were asked to respond to a series of questions about technology services and costs for ILS consortium membership, technology, delivery and OverDrive support. The “WVLS Response to MCPL Task Force Assignment for March 2020 meeting” is attached.

Questions asked of both SCLS and WVLS were:

#### Technology Questions

1. MCPL will have to replace their RFID system over the coming 12-18 months. What experience does your staff have in RFID? How can you assist them with this project?
2. How do you support libraries’ experimentation with new technology services?
3. If only one library is interested in a new technology, to what extent are you able to assist that library?
4. How do you balance one library’s desire to innovate with the need to continue to provide services to other member libraries?
5. How do you decide what technology products or services to support or not support?
6. What do you see as new or emerging technology that will affect libraries in the next few years?

#### Financial Questions

1. Please list payments and amounts that MCPL is or would be expected to pay as a system member in 2020.
2. How are these shared costs determined?
3. Do you give cash grants to libraries? Please describe amounts, purpose, and how you determine the amount each library gets.

#### Questions for SCLS Only

1. Can you estimate what MCPL would have paid in ILS, technology & other fees if it were a SCLS member in 2020?
2. Can you estimate the costs for MCPL to migrate to LINKcat?
3. What service do you offer that are primarily used by your larger libraries?

#### Questions for WVLS Only

1. What services does MCPL receive that your smaller libraries do not?
2. What services do the smaller libraries in the consortium receive that MCPL does not.

The “WVLS Response to MCPL Task Force Assignment for March 2020 meeting” is attached. It is worth noting that WVLS also provided responses to SCLS Questions 1 and 3, and Shannon Schultz shared a brief comparison of systems from 2019 annual report data in [DLT Spreadsheet – System Comparisons Using 2019 Annual Report Data](#) and [DLT Spreadsheet – System Comparisons Using 2019 AR Data Version 2](#)

### April 20, 2020 MCPL Task Force Meeting (cancelled)

## May 18, 2020 MCPL Task Force Meeting

The [May 2020 Task Force Meeting Packet](#) shared the agenda for the May meeting and January, February and March meeting minutes, as well as the SCLS/WVLS Estimated 2020 ILS Cost Breakdown, Estimates of MCPL 2020 Costs for System Services – SCLS/WVLS, Estimated 2020 Grant and other Funding Available to MCPL from SCLS/WVLS.

The agenda allowed for in-person as well as virtual attendance but did not allow for public comment. The May agenda reads: *“The Public Comment portion of the agenda has been temporarily suspended, pursuant to Marathon County Resolution # R-29-20, dated April 21, 2020, because the technology necessary to afford the public the opportunity to address the County Board, or its subgroups, during public comment is difficult to guarantee, if a large number of individuals have elected to all in.”*

An updated [WVLS response to the financial questions](#) was shared with Mark Arend, MCPL Task Force Chair, just prior to the meeting. Also, the [WVLS Response to Technology and ILS Questions](#) and [SCLS Response to Technology/ILS and Financial Questions](#) – requested in March – were reviewed by the Task Force during this meeting.

## June 20, 2020 MCPL Task Force Meeting

In preparation for the meeting, each system was asked for additional details regarding the financial information shared previously, as well as *“documents for Mission Statements, Vision, Values, Goals, Strategic Plans, etc.”* This information could be shared digitally or as links to the documents posted on a website.

In addition, each system was asked to respond to Innovation questions per this request:

*“The Leadership Team at MCPL has been considering the Task Force topic of Innovation in order to submit our organizational goals as related to the future. For the consideration of the Task Force, we have limited the discussion to three general goals that we have for the near future at MCPL. During the beginning stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe that anything more ambitious would likely go beyond the realm of reasonableness.*

*The first goal related to innovation would be our intention to make full use of the features available in the System’s ILS (Integrated Library System). Currently, the ILS is the proprietary Innovative Interfaces ILS, which offers a wide array of features which could be very useful to MCPL. We have been denied access to features which are considered by the software maker to be primary advantages of their software by the current consortium. We would very much like to use those features, or the equivalent available in another System’s ILS, to facilitate better customer service interactions while also improving financial reporting and other interactions with patrons.*

*Second, we need to find a less constrictive and less expensive RFID/processing vendor than our current vendor, 3M. We believe that Envisionware is that vendor. To our knowledge, SCLS has used the Envisionware products among its member libraries. We are not aware of any libraries in WVLS who use either technology to process their books other than Antigo.*

*Third, we will be developing our MakerSpace with Engberg Anderson’s designs over the next year. How do the systems compare in their support/development of MakerSpace technology? These are the three agreed priorities for MCPL in the coming few years that will most rely on the concept of Innovation.*

The [June 2020 Task Force Meeting Packet](#) shared the agenda for the June meeting, and minutes of the May and March meetings. Options to participate in-person or online were offered, however the agenda again did not allow for public comment.

Pages 6-10 of the meeting packet only provided the SCLS response to the above request for each systems Mission Statements, Vision, Values, Goals, Strategic plans, etc. While not included in the meeting packet or posted to the [MCPL Library System Task Force webpage](#), the WVLS response submitted to Mark Arend on June 9 is linked [here](#) on the WVLS website.

The [WVLS Response to Innovation Questions](#) was also given to Mark Arend, but we have not seen the SCLS response. It remains unclear whether all the information from each system has been shared with Task Force members and if this topic will be addressed at a future meeting.

A revised/updated [Cost Comparison of SCLS and WVLS](#) was also distributed.

## **July 20, 2020 MCPL Task Force Meeting**

For this meeting, each system was asked to share their Organization Charts. In preparation for the July topic GOVERNANCE, Mark Arend also culled information from each system's website, and created a document for each system to update.

The information packet for the [July 2020 Task Force Meeting](#) included the July meeting agenda and minutes of the June and May meetings. Options to participate in-person or online were offered, however the agenda again did not allow for public comment.

The packet also included

- 2020 Organizational Charts (WVLS, page 6; SCLS, page 13)
- 2020 Fees for Services (WVLS, page 7; SCLS, page 14)
- Governance and Decision-Making (WVLS, pages 8-9; SCLS, pages 15-16)
- 2020 Services Costs for MCPL (WVLS, page 10; SCLS page 17)
- 2020 Grants and Other Funding Available to MCPL (WVLS, page 11; SCLS, page 18)
- 2020 V-Cat ILS Cost Breakdown for MCPL (WVLS, page 12; SCLS, pages 19 and 20)

Information about a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) was provided on pages 21-23.

While WVLS provided Mark Arend with a detailed [WVLS Board and Committee Representation document](#), [V-Cat Voting Models Exploratory Committee Summary](#) and [June 2020 V-Cat Voting Models Minutes](#), this information was not shared in the meeting packet, nor posted to the MCPL website.

Task Force members spent most of the meeting reviewing information in the packet. Toward meeting's end, the MCPL Board President presented the idea of interviewing MCPL staff members. During discussion, the purpose of the interviews, the method of identifying which staff would be interviewed, and what questions should be asked to meet Task Force information needs were not clear to the WVLS staff who attended the meeting. The Task Force nonetheless appeared to feel they had sufficient information to approve the interviews. Interviews will be conducted by an unnamed trained county facilitator and completed by the August 2020 meeting.

Discussion indicated that the Task Force plans to offer a final recommendation to the MCPL Board in October 2020.

## **August 17 MCPL Task Force Meeting**

The topics for this meeting will be “Service to Customers Internal” and “SWOT Analysis and Summary.”

### **More Information**

Complete information about the MCPL investigation of membership in a different system than WVLS is available on the WVLS website at <https://wvls.org/mcpl-system-exploration>. The web site archives correspondence, presentations and other information related to this topic.