

V-Cat Discovery Layer Advisory Meeting Notes



Thursday, August 20, 2020
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service
300 First Street - Wausau WI, 54403

Prepared by Katie Zimmermann, ILS Administrator

Committee and Advisory Group members present:

Debbie Kiefer – T.B. Scott, Merrill/Lincoln (Bibliographic Committee)
Dominic Frandrup – Antigo/Langlade (Cooperative Circulation and Databases Advisory Group)
Erica Brewster – Three Lakes/Oneida (Databases Advisory Group)
Erica Petersen – Medford/Taylor (Bibliographic Committee and Databases Advisory Group)
Heidi O’Hare – Tomahawk/Lincoln (Bibliographic Committee)
Allison Puestow – Tomahawk/Lincoln (Databases Advisory Group)
Julie Kinney – MCPL/Marathon (Databases Advisory Group)
Kim Metzke – Greenwood/Clark (Cooperative Circulation Committee and Databases Advisory Group)
Tammie Blomberg – Rib Lake/Taylor (Cooperative Circulation)
Tomahawk/Lincoln County

Others present:

Katie Zimmermann – WVLS (ILS Administrator, meeting facilitator)
Brandon Hardin – Withee/Clark

Meeting notes:

K. Zimmermann gave an overview of discovery layer review process:

- July - Broad assessment to discovery layer needs – library staff survey
- July/August - Broad discovery layer exploration by WVLS staff
- August 20th - Discovery layer advisory meeting input on discovery needs
- August/September WVLS staff discovery layer product reviews/demos
- October - Discovery layer advisory input on demos and sites that use them
- October - Share information with V-Cat Council by email regarding discovery layers reviewed.
- November - share recommendation with V-Cat Council regarding discovery layer next steps
- November 5, 2020 - V-Cat Council Meeting – possible vote on recommendation for discovery layer next steps
- February 4, 2020 - V-Cat Council Meeting – possible vote on recommendation for discovery layer next steps.

Zimmermann assured group members that the needs assessment work will be valuable for a future ILS review regardless of decisions made about a discovery layer. V-Cat has a number of options regarding discovery layer which include the following:

- stay with Ebsco Discovery Service (EDS), V-Cat's current discovery product
- choose a different discovery product and begin the implementation process
- postpone this decision until V-Cat has completed an ILS review

Zimmermann stated that the focus of this meeting is not on the decision, but on end user needs and the services V-Cat wants to be offering to our patrons.

Committee and Advisory Group members present reviewed libraries' responses on the Discovery Layer Staff and Patron Needs Sheet. Responses from libraries were compiled or grouped by county. Considerable discussion followed and notes were added to the document which will be shared once additional responses are added.

Some concerns were expressed about the FRBR-ization of items with the possibility that patrons would choose an incorrect format. R. Metzler showed an example of a discovery layer that offers views of multiple formats of a work grouped together i.e. Hardcover, Paperback, Audiobook on CD, Audiobook on Playaway. Members noted that it was streamlined and easy for patrons to see what format they are selecting.

E. Brewster posed a question about whether or not patrons want to search for all types of digital materials and physical formats in one search. How likely is it that patrons are already coming to the search with a particular type of resource in mind?

Multiple members noted that their experience has been that patrons do not do academic searches often, and that it is common to do separate searches for digital and physical items. It was a consensus among group members that most patrons use the catalog to search for library owned physical materials. Multiple members expressed that their libraries use the classic catalog instead of the EDS interface. Members noted that Badgerlink can be difficult to use, and EDS is easier.

A question arose that needs to be answered: Does V-Cat need a discovery layer that has strengths in database searching or physical materials searching or both?

K. Metzke compared choosing a discovery layer to choosing a car. It is important to know what features are desirable, but also to consider that V-Cat may not be able to get all of them in one place or at a cost members are comfortable with.

D. Frandrup suggested naming the catalog in a similar way to what OWLS/NFLS have done with "Infosoup," It was noted that some marketing or education might be needed. Members noted that patrons do not seem to know what staff mean by classic catalog or discovery catalog or even V-Cat.

Members requested a review of data available from EDS on searching and use.

The possibility of a short patron survey to assess search and discovery needs was discussed. Potential focus areas for questions include:

- do patrons know the EDS search/interface exists?
- what kind of information or format they are they looking for?
- would searching for articles and physical materials be useful?
- what would they like to do on our catalog that they can't do now?
- what features would be helpful in searching for materials?

R. Metzler gave an update on potential discovery layer products to consider. A list of products with links to the product website and links to catalogs of libraries using the product will be shared when it is complete.

The next meeting will include a review of the Staff and Patron Needs Sheet with additional responses, further consideration of a brief patron survey, review of Ebsco Discovery Service usage data, and an update on discovery products to consider.