

# ILS Evaluation & Review Committee

## Report to V-CAT Council – April 6, 2023

The committee has welcomed a new member – Tammie Blomberg of Rib Lake – following the departure of Erica Brewster of Three Lakes.

Since the last V-CAT Council meeting, the Committee has reviewed additional staff feedback and accordingly reduced the pool of potential systems to two: **Koha** (supported by ByWater Solutions), and **Sierra** (by Innovative). Staff feedback and committee review of **CARL** (by the Library Corporation) indicated that it would not meet the needs of WVLS libraries, primarily due to its use of multiple interfaces for core tasks.

Since then, the committee has focused on determining what additional information needs to be gathered in order to make an informed recommendation. The value of on-site demonstrations of particular features in Koha has been the main topic, though the committee has weighed this against the difficulty of physically travelling to libraries that are similar enough to form a good comparison to WVLS libraries, since there are not nearby options. A visit to an academic library rather than a public one may be necessary. The committee has worked to refine the remaining list of questions into a form that could be adequately answered remotely, though it is unclear whether doubts about certain modules of Koha can be resolved without going on-site. The committee has also considered a site visit to better understand whether additional features covered in the Sierra demonstration might be useful to WVLS libraries. The committee may need to request funds from the council to complete information-gathering via a small on-site visit.

The committee has also revised the timeline to reflect this phase of information gathering and to ensure that the conclusion of the parallel NICE Project can be considered as part of the final recommendation. With that in mind, the earliest the committee could provide a recommendation at a V-CAT Council meeting would be in June 2023, though this depends on the success of the final information-gathering steps in the meantime. The current schedule would have any potential ILS migration complete in 2024.