

V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee

Meeting Notes for Thursday, May 11, 2023

This meeting was held remotely via GoToMeeting.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Committee Chair A. Johnson.

2. Roll Call

Committee members present: A. Greenhaw (Rhineland), H. O'Hare (Tomahawk), K. Heiting (Granton), A. Johnson (MCPL), C. Luebbe (MCPL), T. Blomberg (Rib Lake), R. Metzler (WVLS), K. Zimmermann (WVLS).

Others present: G. Rae (NWLS) A. Demlow (Antigo)

3. Approval of Agenda

K. Heiting moved to approve the agenda, seconded by C. Luebbe. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

T. Blomberg moved to approve prior meeting minutes, seconded by C Luebbe. Motion carried.

5. Site Visit Review

Committee reviewed the Koha Site Visit Evaluation Survey Results and worked to clarify certain comments to better understand how they apply. Summary of the discussion:

- Circulation. Comments almost universally positive. Noted: ease of use, customizable, intuitive.
- Cataloging. Comments mainly negative. Noted: belief that Koha's cataloging interface is more cumbersome to use than Sierra which may cause some V-Cat catalogers to drop out of our current cooperative cataloging model.
- Web-based. Mixed comments noted. Positive: easy to use, always available. Negative: may be slow.
- Reports. Comments more negative than positive. Noted: irregular reports would be harder to create. Inability to interact with the record within the report.
- Administration. Comments nearly all positive. Noted: Bywater customer service and Koha community support.
- Acquisitions. Mixed comments noted. Belief that further information is needed.

"Considering the additional information from this library/library consortium, would you recommend this product for your library?" and "Considering the additional information from this library/library consortium, would you recommend this product for V-Cat as a whole?" The

committee noted the high number of “Maybe” responses and concluded that additional information is needed before a decision can be made.

Discussion continued about motivations for a migration, comparisons between Koha and Sierra, and experiences during the migration between Horizon and Sierra. It was noted that WVLS/V-Cat’s experience with Bywater’s support for Aspen has been positive. The committee concluded that more information is needed to understand if Koha can meet our libraries’ needs via setup adjustments or customization.

6. Assessment of Further Information Needed

- Acquisitions – Information is needed to address concerns that workflows necessary with Koha may be more time consuming. Our current understanding is that some of the acquisitions work completed in Sierra may need to be done outside of Koha with other software and additional staff time. We would like to talk with a consortia to understand how they use the acquisitions features across multiple libraries.
- Cataloging – Information is needed to address concerns that cataloging workflows in Koha may be more time consuming. Koha may not support multiple windows open in Z39.50 searches to compare records. This may mean that cataloging staff would benefit from a two-screen setup. Concern remain that Koha may not be robust enough to handle the bulk of cataloging work at larger libraries. There is concern that if fewer libraries do the work of importing bib records, there will be an increased burden on libraries doing the bulk of cataloging. User tests may be needed to determine if the interface is user friendly enough for less experienced catalogers at V-Cat libraries.
- Reporting – Information is needed to address concerns that workflows necessary with Koha may be more time consuming or require expert users. More information is needed about the ease/difficulty of creating reports, particularly irregular reports, and whether staff can open/edit records directly from the report results.
- Offline circulation – Information is needed about Koha’s performance during times of slow internet connections including speed and latency issues. A review of Koha’s offline circulation features is needed.

7. Discussion on Final Report Requirements

Tabled pending Further Information Needed.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Review Further Information Needed. Discuss Final Report Requirements.

9. Set Next Meeting Date

Thursday, June 8, 2023.

10. Adjournment

T. Blomberg moved to adjourn, seconded by K. Heiting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 11:40 a.m.

C. Luebbe, K. Zimmermann and K. Heiting Recorders