



NICE Project Update

WVLS expresses a sincere thank you to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for the support of the Northern Wisconsin ILS Exploration (NICE) project.

WVLS believes an ILS merger between Northern Waters Library Network (NWLN) and V-Cat would increase accessibility to library materials, and services to library users in Northern Wisconsin. By prioritizing existing processes within each consortium, WVLS, Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS), the NICE Team, and NICE Workgroups collectively made every effort to make the merger easy to approve.

In 2024 NWLN and V-Cat voted not to pursue a shared ILS. A report outlining some of the factors we believe led to these decisions was shared in the [September 2024 Report to WVLS Board of Trustees](#).

At the September, 2024 WVLS Board of Trustees meeting, the board voted to go on record in continuing support of the NICE project, while recognizing the validity of the V-CAT bylaws and decision, and recommends keeping the door open to revisiting the project within two years. The motion was unanimously approved.

A report of lessons learned and next steps for V-Cat will be developed. We will be in touch with the new NWLN director and ILS Administrator and explore opportunities for collaboration in the future.