

Operational Plan for Bibliographic Access

Introduction

As stated in the standards for *Services of Illinois Multitype Library Systems*, the purpose of system bibliographic access programs is to facilitate the identification and location of library materials within the System through a standardized description of these resources.

Comprehensive identification of the bibliographic resources in our member libraries is a means by which the goal of increased resource sharing among member libraries can be achieved.

Within the Rolling Prairie Library System facilitating and increasing bibliographic access among member libraries has been an important goal of the System from its inception. In recent years the growth of technology has enabled the scope of bibliographic access activities to expand dramatically.

Bibliographic access in Rolling Prairie Library System is provided by a number of important resource-sharing mechanisms, all of which have developed through the participation of both member librarians and System staff. These mechanisms continue to develop and grow each year. The most important method for providing bibliographic access to the library collections in our System area is through participation by our libraries in the RPLS LLSAP, Serials of Illinois Libraries Online (SILO), OCLC, ILLINET Online (IO) and the Statewide Illinois Library Catalog (SILC).

The RPLS LLSAP

Our Local Library System Automation Project (LLSAP) began in 1977 as a joint venture of the System agency and a single member library. Today it is a cooperative venture of 141 RPLS libraries, of all types, housed on a powerful computer located at the System headquarters in Decatur, Illinois.

The LLSAP database provides extensive bibliographic access to both LLSAP and non-LLSAP libraries. The participating online libraries have continuous access to each other's holdings, including shelf status. They are able to place reserves on titles found in the database. The LLSAP software will then route the first available copy of that title to them. Currently over 17,000 items per month are borrowed among these libraries through the LLSAP.

The LLSAP database is also available for searching on the System web page by any RPLS member library with Internet access. In recent years, grant funds have been available to assist libraries in acquiring Internet access and, as a result, almost all RPLS member libraries can now take advantage of the availability of the LLSAP database for bibliographic searching.

SILO and WorldCat

A second major mechanism for providing bibliographic access is our participation in SILO and WorldCat. The serial holdings of many RPLS member libraries can be found in the SILO component of the OCLC database.

Many RPLS libraries are full members of the OCLC database. All System members have access to WorldCat through their profiling as OCLC libraries.

RPLS also participates in the loading of holdings from its LLSAP database into the OCLC-maintained WorldCat database. The initial backloading of records is being constantly updated by the quarterly addition of new records from our LLSAP into WorldCat. Bibliographic access to holdings from our regional database is thus being made available to libraries worldwide who utilize OCLC.

ILLINET Online and SILC

The third important component of bibliographic access in our System is the availability of holdings from many of our member libraries in the ILLINET Online and SILC databases. The holdings of seven major academic collections in RPLS, (Millikin University, SIU School of Medicine, University of Illinois-Springfield, Lincoln Christian College, Springfield College, Robert Morris College-Springfield and Lincoln Land Community College), are part of the ILLINET Online database of Illinois academic institutions.

The rich academic resources of the entire ILLINET Online database and the enormous and varied holdings of the Illinois library systems are both available through SILC.

Other System Databases

In addition to the three major components for bibliographic access in the Rolling Prairie Library System, other databases play a role in bibliographic access within RPLS.

An undetermined number of member libraries, primarily schools, have acquired small in-house systems such as those marketed by Follett or Winnebago. Unfortunately, bibliographic access to the materials contained in these databases by other libraries is very limited. Many school libraries have converted to LLSAP membership, making their holdings more widely available.

As can be seen from this brief description of major options for bibliographic access, there are a variety of possibilities open to our member libraries for providing access to their collections. Bibliographic access to the great bulk of library holdings in our System now exists. There are still collections, however, particularly in school libraries, to which there is no easy bibliographic access. The expansion of access to these remaining collections will continue to be a System goal for years to come.