

MORE Administrator's Report

May 2019 – MORE Directors Council

Innovative Users Group (IUG) Conference

Eight library and system staff members from the IFLS area attended this year's Innovative Users Group conference in Phoenix earlier this month. It was a good opportunity to learn about new ways to use our library automation software and hear about our vendor's development plans. We attendees plan on making conference reports available soon.

The 2020 Innovative Users Group Conference will be held in Minneapolis, likely making it possible for MORE to sponsor more attendees and require less of a time commitment.

Online patron registration

I've been working on the online patron registration set-up, per the policy approved at March's Directors Council meeting. This will allow individuals to register online for a library card that grants access to system- and consortium-funded electronic resources. I expect this option to be functional by this summer.

New search options

In response to staff requests and with funding approved by MORE Directors Council, we've added some new search options for the online catalog, including the ability to limit to young adult or adult materials, in addition to the pre-existing option of limiting to children's materials. This seemingly minor change required a fair amount of back-end set-up for we system staff, but was a relatively seamless improvement for library users and staff.

Student cards

Some libraries are beginning to consider issuing library cards en masse to students in local school districts. These will be collaborative projects with many service-related details arranged between public libraries and local school staff, with the technical underpinnings handled by us here at IFLS.

ILS Admin collaboration

Several staff members from other library systems in the state who work with library automation held an online meeting in April, and several of us met again at the IUG conference. It's so valuable to learn how other systems have addressed challenges and how they've implemented solutions, given the frequent overlap in what member libraries are challenged by and want to accomplish.

CVTC update

Chippewa Valley Technical College Library continues to be in contact about re-joining MORE. We don't have a timeline for their decision, but they seem to be moving along in their planning process.