

# MORE Administrator's Report

March 2025 – MORE Directors Council

## 2025 In Review

Across MORE, physical circulation activity was down slightly compared to 2024. Checkouts of digital materials (ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines) via Libby again saw an increase, with total checkouts breaking 1 million for the first time:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Checkouts of physical materials	2,308,946	2,423,481	2,374,347	2,231,611
Renewals of physical materials	790,843	782,028	784,054	770,158
Total circulation of physical materials (checkouts plus renewals)	3,099,789	3,205,509	3,158,401	3,001,769
Physical items loaned and borrowed among MORE-member libraries	618,946	639,718	612,484	580,410
OverDrive/Libby checkouts	1,034,428	961,927	864,230	755,409

- Jackee Johnson started as MORE Support Specialist, and Julia Reid as MORE Database Specialist
- MORE introduced a text-messaging notification service. Patrons can renew materials and check on their accounts by responding via text
- Many member libraries are modernizing their email notices with LX Starter. Help is available!
- MORE launched an ILS Evaluation, to determine next steps with the staff-facing library software used across MORE-member libraries
- Catalogers at IFLS and cataloging partner libraries added 27,968 title records to the shared catalog. Member libraries added 100,994 item (copy) records.

## MORE ILS Evaluation

MORE is in the midst of evaluating the staff-facing software in use by all libraries in the consortium. Since 2012, MORE has used Sierra, an ILS (integrated library system) from vendor Innovative. Other ILS products are available for library consortia, including in the state of Wisconsin. An ILS Task Force made up of library staff, library directors, and IFLS staff has been meeting regularly. The group has:

- Explored the current ILS landscape
- Conducted a survey on Sierra among library staff and director
- Compiled a list of ILS necessary and desirable functions to be included in Requests for Information (RFIs) from ILS vendors

Next, the Task Force will distribute RFIs to vendors, analyze responses, organize product demos, evaluate products, and ultimately make a recommendation about MORE's ILS use in the future to MORE Directors Council by this fall.

Task Force members have dedicated significant time and expertise to this project already, and staff and directors across MORE provided valuable input via the Sierra survey. Many thanks to all!

### MORE Database Updates

MORE's Cataloging and Bibliographic Services (CABS) team, MORE's Cataloging Partner staff, and the MORE Bibliographic Records and Standards Committee work to ensure that all MORE-member libraries' holdings are findable for patrons across the system. In addition to creating records for new titles, catalogers and other technical services staff:

- Perform regular database maintenance tasks to ensure records contain uniform and robust descriptive information
- Consider accessibility needs, for example by determining the best way to designate materials for visually impaired users

### Upcoming Conferences

In April, MORE staff will be attending both the Public Library Association (PLA) Conference in Minneapolis and the Innovative Users Group (IUG) Conference in Chicago. This year, MORE's ILS Evaluation project will inform a good portion of our information-gathering and meetings with vendors.