

Patron Self-Registration Considerations and Options

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- MORE can use an online form to gather information from patrons
- This information automatically populates a new patron record in Sierra
- Only automatic duplicate-check is on full name
- Could be restricted to accessing electronic content only: OverDrive, Freading, Flipster, and other local sources at libraries' discretion
- Could allow for placing holds on or checking out physical materials
- When self-registration was allowed in the past (ca. 2009):
 - Very few electronic resources were available for checkout to patrons
 - Most patron actions used to be blocked when their record's expiration date had passed, perhaps prompting some to create a new (duplicate) record only because they couldn't use their existing account
 - Allowing holds proved problematic: self-registrations frequently resulted in duplicate records, then staff had to deal with holds placed on those duplicate records
- Other details to consider:
 - Explanatory form text
 - Confirmation email message
 - Residency
 - Duplicate records
 - Expiration/record-purging

Option 1: E-Card

1. Patron completes online self-registration form
2. Card number issued works for shared electronic resources
3. Patron must come to the library to complete registration to get a regular MORE-member library card

Example: St. Paul Public Library: <https://alpha.sppl.org/screens/ecardreg.html>

Option 2: Pre-registration

1. Patron completes online self-registration form
2. A "starter account" is created in Sierra without any use privileges
3. Patron must come to the library to complete registration and get a regular MORE-member library card

Example: Hennepin County Library: <https://www.hclib.org/about/library-cards> (mails card to approved applicants)

WPLC option: OverDrive's online registration

1. Patron completes OverDrive's self-registration form
2. Patron has limited access to OverDrive resources only
3. WPLC will determine implementation. Could be used in combination with options 1 or 2