

Item: Westchester Library System Integrated Library System (ILS)

Background: In April, the Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) formed the Integrated Library System (ILS) Committee consisting of the following members:
From PLDA: Brian Kenney, Committee Chair, Director, White Plains Public Library;
Andrew Farber, Director, Somers Public Library; Rosemarie Gatzek, Director, Irvington Public Library; Greg Wirszyla, Director, Bronxville Public Library
From WLS: Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology; Melanie Carnes, Automation Services Librarian

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent out and five proposals were received from the following companies: Equinox Library Initiative, Innovative Interfaces, SirsiDynix, The Library Corporation (TLC), and Insignia Software. These proposals were reviewed using a scoring matrix created by the Committee. The field was narrowed down to two potential options: Equinox and extending SirsiDynix. Presentations by the finalists were held in August.

Status: The PLDA ILS Committee presented its findings to the entire PLDA General Membership at their September 20th meeting. Below is a summary of the comments shared by the Committee Chair, Brian Kenney:

The members of the Committee as well as everyone who attended the vendor demonstrations, sent staff to the demonstrations, and shared their feedback were thanked for their contribution to the process.

The RFP response and presentation from SirsiDynix noted that significant changes in the software are coming with the release of future modules. This underscored that significant training and adjustment to new software would be needed regardless of which ILS was selected.

The RFP response and presentation from Equinox provided a thorough overview of Evergreen open-source library management system. Several significant software developments have been added to Evergreen since it was last reviewed in 2014.

In the ILS Committee report to PLDA, Dr. Kenney made note of the following considerations regarding the recommendation of Equinox/Evergreen:

Sustainability: The software is supported by the community; no one organization completely controls it. Should Equinox no longer exist, the software would live on through the support of its user community. Since the source is open, any developer can make additions and changes to the software.

Elimination of vendor lock: There are now multiple vendor options for hosting and support of the Evergreen software. Equinox, a non-profit organization set up for the purpose of supporting and overseeing development of Evergreen, the leading vendor. However, other options exist should it be desired or necessary to make a change in vendors in the future without having to migrate to a new software.

Consortia-centric design: Evergreen was originally built for a large consortium and has been adopted by other large libraries, library systems and consortia.

Visual appeal: The interface for Evergeen is cleaner and more user friendly than what is offered from SirsiDynix.

The PLDA General Membership approved the recommendation of the PLDA ILS Committee with XX in favor and X opposed with X abstentions.

Recommended

Action:

The WLS Board authorize WLS staff to enter into contract negotiations with the recommendation of the PLDA ILS Committee.

September 25, 2018