

Migration Update

December 4, 2017

I have already had some questions about the timing of the training so I thought I'd give you an overview of the process and the steps that must occur before training can begin.

We are entering the design phase of the project. TLN staff will be learning how the CARL system operates so our policies can be transferred to the new system. This will be done module by module beginning with cataloging and the bibliographic database next week and ending with the online catalog in February. Each module has multiple design sessions and multiple workbooks to fill out that detail our current policies so they can be transferred to the new system.

Once the design phase is complete, the CARL staff will build our system to our specifications during the month of March. We will have a second data extract in March and our data will also be loaded onto our system. This should be complete by the end of March and TLN staff will be trained and will spend most of April testing the system to make sure it operates as expected. Training the libraries can only begin once the testing is complete and we are confident that the data has transferred correctly and the system operates properly. Training closer to our live date will make it less likely that staff will forget what they have learned.

We are using the same "train the trainer" model that we used when we migrated from DRA to Sirsi and it was successful then. Some libraries (including Berkley) chose to have the entire circulation staff come in for training outside regular library hours and others did smaller group training or one on one training during regular library hours. DRA was a command driven system using dumb terminals so moving to a Windows based system was a challenge and everything was new. This time we are moving from one Windows based system to another and library staff already understand the underlying principles of how the system operates. The biggest challenge will be learning new terminology.

Because of the length of time the design phase takes, the only way to lengthen the training period would be to postpone our live date to the next holiday weekend, which is Labor Day. It will be a challenge, but collectively we have done it before and I am confident that we can do it again.

Celia

Celia Morse
Automation Services Consultant
The Library Network
41365 Vincenti Ct.
Novi MI 48375
248-536-3100 ext. 104 fax 248-697-2920
<http://tln.lib.mi.us>