

Migration Update

October 2, 2017

It looks like everything is on track for migrating to Carl over Memorial Day weekend. We have received a preliminary timeline from Carl and we expect that work will begin next month. We expect library staff training to take place in early April and we will confirm that as soon as the final calendar is developed. We plan to have training classes in various geographical locations.

We can expect a fairly significant disruption in MelCat service. We will have to stop placing and filling requests several weeks before the migration in order to complete as many transactions as possible before the data is extracted and it will probably take several weeks for the MelCat staff to complete the interface with our new system.

We are also negotiating a contract extension with SirsiDynix to keep our old system fully operational until the migration. Our current contract expires March 31, 2018.

If you are attending the MLA conference in Lansing this month, please stop by the TLC booth in the exhibits and introduce yourself as a member of the TLN shared system. Carl staff will be at the booth also and they are eager to meet you. Please encourage anyone from your library who is attending the conference to stop by the booth and say hello.

The TLC Users Group annual conference will be held in Louisville November 5-8, and John Inman, Anne Neville and I will attend from the TLN staff, along with Andrea Dickson, the chair of SASUG. We are looking forward to networking with other Carl users and learning from them. I have been in contact with the staff at the Somerset County Library and they say that their migration is going very well and they have been impressed with the thoroughness of Carl's process. They will be live on Carl in early December.

The first test data extract will be sent to Carl around December 1 so there is still time for libraries to do some database cleanup. There is a report on the shared system statistics page that will give you a list of all of the item types used by your library and which collection or collections those items are in. This can be found under the "Individual Library Monthly Statistics" section of the page. Choose your library in the first drop down, choose "Total items by item type and item cat 2" from the second drop down, and the most recent month available (currently September) in the third drop down. You might be surprised to see that you have two items linked as BOARDGAME when you have no board games or 6 as VIDEO when you thought you had discarded the videotape collection. You might also see 30 items linked as JBOOK in the adult collection. These errors are easy to make and now is the time to get them corrected. You can get lists of the specific titles that need to be corrected or discarded by using director's station, advanced search in Enterprise (search by item type and limit to your library), or by using the search limits in Workflows (first icon that looks like binoculars on the toolbar in item search and display). As we map the item types to new item types and locations in Carl, the simple errors we see now could be compounded in the transition to the new system. Please contact me with specific questions about how to find the items that need to be corrected. I will be in contact with individual libraries to answer questions about what they need to do to correct these problems.

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If you have any questions about the migration, please send them along and I will do my best to answer them. I am also available to come and talk to your staff or your library board if they have questions about the migration. We still have to learn the specifics of the new system ourselves, though!

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