

5 March 2008
SPECIAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Plans and Recommendations
for
Statewide Resource Sharing (SWRS)
for the
State Library of Ohio**

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PREFACE

The purposes of this Plans and Recommendations for Statewide Resource Sharing (SWRS) for the State Library of Ohio are to recommend a strategic direction and outline a near-term plan-of-action for enhanced resource sharing among the libraries of Ohio.

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In November 2000 the State Library of Ohio contracted with Fretwell-Downing, Inc. (FDI) to provide software licenses, consulting services, installation, technical implementation, and training for the technology portion of the Statewide Resource Sharing System that has now become known as Ohio Libraries Share MORE (OLS: MORE).

In 2007 the State Library retained RMG Consultants, Inc. (RMG) to assist with a strategic planning process for the next phases of the Statewide Resource Sharing (SWRS) System. The State Library believed that it was prudent to look again at the marketplace and current solutions for library resource sharing, and to gather inputs from the entire Ohio library community as part of this process.

Accordingly, RMG designed a SWRS Project Organization, Communications Plan, and Request-for-Information (RFI) process for Ohio libraries to learn about current marketplace solutions for library resource sharing, to inform needed decisions about the next phases of Statewide Resource Sharing – including the potential for a subsequent formal procurement (Request for Proposal) for a Next-Generation Library Resource Sharing Solution. The RFI process was *not designed or intended as a procurement process* to select a resource-sharing solution for the next phases of MORE, rather to assess the feasibility of an improved solution.

RMG issued the RFI to

Auto-Graphics, Inc.
Equinox
Innovative Interfaces, Inc.
LibLime
OCLC/Pica
SirsiDynix.

to explore possibilities for upgrade or replacement of MORE's underlying computer system, VDX (for Virtual Document eXchange -- supplied by FDI that has been purchased by OCLC/PICA). Invited responses were received from all vendors except LibLime and Innovative Interfaces.

The RFI solicited responses that would address a vision and goals for a Next-Generation Library Resource Sharing solution for SWRS, including the following capabilities:

- For patron self-service search and discovery of Ohio library resources, regardless of format – print, print-on-demand, electronic, multimedia, AV – as well as commercially available resources that match interests.
 - Including federated and faceted searching capabilities.
- For unmediated patron self-service requests of wanted library materials.
- For unmediated patron self-service online purchases of commercially available items from suppliers like Amazon, Borders, Barnes and Noble.
- For delivery of library-supplied materials to locations requested by patrons, with payment options for home and office deliveries.
- For seamless connectivity and interoperability of the Next-Generation Library Resource Sharing System with Ohio libraries’ local Integrated Library Systems (ILSs).
 - For seamless interoperability of patrons’ SWRS requests for library materials with the circulation system modules of local ILSs.
 - Through NCIP or some other interface, so that SWRS requests can be handled in the same way – with the same efficiency and workflow (for picking and preparing materials for shipment, and processing them upon return) -- that libraries’ Integrated Library Systems handle locally-generated requests.

The following questions -- and the answers they have elicited -- emerged during this process to identify key elements of the recommended course of action and near-term plan to pursue a strategic SWRS direction for Ohio libraries:

Question #1: Is there an out-of-the-box library resource-sharing solution significantly better than VDX ready now for implementation as a Next-Generation SWRS for Ohio libraries?

Answer: No.

Question #2: Is there a library resource-sharing solution that has achieved seamless interoperability with all of the integrated library system (ILS) products used by Ohio libraries that need to work together to provide a Next-Generation SWRS?

Answer: No.

Question #3: Has anyone got a “magic solution” for achieving seamless interoperability between a library resource-sharing solution and all of the ILSs in Ohio that need to work with a Next-Generation SWRS?

Answer: No. But vendors have plans and aspirations, and are still working on NCIP interfaces, as well as custom interfaces, with promises for new solutions in the coming months.

Question #4: Is there any reason to believe that a Next-Generation SWRS RFP issued in the very near-term would identify substantially different solutions from the ones described by RFI Responses already received through the current process?

Answer: No.

Question #5: Are there advantages to the State Library and Ohio libraries to delay a Next-Generation SWRS RFP?

Answer: Yes. A delay until mid-year would give vendors time to make good on their targeted developments -- and allow the State Library and Ohio libraries to take actions with ILS vendors to improve the probability of a wanted solution, and to develop agreed-upon financial arrangements for continuing and expanding MORE implementation.

Question #6: Is an NCIP-based SWRS solution worth waiting and striving for?

Answer: Yes. Developing NCIP implementations to work through the standards-based, collaborative efforts of ILS vendors continues to promise sustainable, seamless interoperability with disparate integrated library systems that is required to provide an efficient library resource-sharing solution. And Ohio libraries need to make their urgent needs for this known to their ILS vendors, and to seek vendors' good-faith and best-efforts collaboration.

Question #7: Is there anything that the State Library and Ohio libraries can or should do in the near-term to improve the probability of a securing a wanted Next-Generation SWRS solution for Ohio libraries?

Answer: Yes. The following suggestions, and the Recommended Schedule of Key Events (at the end of this Executive Summary) are recommended for the State Library and Ohio libraries to consider during the 10 March 2008 meeting of the SWRS Steering Committee, in the context of the SWRS Project Organization that the State Library has established:

- Monitor industry developments for 4 to 6 months
 - Conduct monthly status reporting and review sessions with vendors of interest.
- Coordinate Ohio libraries to ask their ILS vendors to achieve NCIP interoperability with OCLC for MORE
 - Plan for this during the 10 March meeting.
- Seek cooperation of NISO and other Library Resource-Sharing Projects to achieve NCIP compliance in ways responsive to the current business and political challenges for library resource-sharing in Ohio and elsewhere
- Decide GO/NO GO on SWRS RFP or alternative processes in the next 4 to 6 months
 - Key Issue: Progress of OCLC and other vendors
 - Key Issue: State Purchasing's guidelines and regulations regarding possibilities for sole source upgrade with OCLC
 - Key Issue: Availability of funding from the State Library and Ohio libraries for a Next-Generation SWRS.
- Assure alignment of interests among SWRS constituents.

Question #8: How does the State's budget situation impact the possibility for a Next-

Generation SWRS solution?

Answer: Given Ohio's financial circumstances, it is unlikely that new general revenue funds would be appropriated for this initiative. This does not seem to be the right time to go to the Legislature with a special funding request.

Rather than seek special State funding, a more realistic approach might be:

- To use the State Library's LSTA funds to address one-time costs and, as now, some of the ongoing costs.

This would require approval of the State Library Board.

And then

- To ask participating libraries to pay for the remainder of annual operating costs of the SWRS.
- Let's plan to explore possibilities of providing a Next-Generation SWRS with funds from both the State Library and participating libraries.

Question #9: What are the next steps – how shall we proceed?

Answer: Let's plan to address possibilities at the next meeting of the SWRS Steering Committee of the Next-Generation SWRS on March 10th and seek consensus on how best to proceed.

Based on the outcomes of processes outlined by the above Q/As, RMG recommends that the State Library and Ohio libraries, in the context of the SWRS Strategic Planning Project Organization, choose among the following business system options in the next 4 to 6 months:

Option #1: Continue MORE with OCLC/VDX and implement improvements to VDX as they are made available.

- Add additional libraries as their interests warrant.

Option #2: Conduct a Request-for-Proposal (RFP) process to upgrade/replace the VDX solution for MORE.

Option #3: Upgrade/replace the VDX solution for MORE on a sole-source basis with OCLC.

- Depending upon OCLC's progress with VDX and WorldCat.
- Contingent upon State Purchasing's approval of sole source upgrade with OCLC
 - Provisions for negotiating prices would be required.

Option #4: Terminate MORE.

Option #5: Terminate MORE and cooperate with Ohio libraries to replace it with another SWRS program/service.

RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE OF KEY EVENTS

Key Event/Activity	2008											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MONITOR INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS:				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Key OCLC Developments, e.g.:				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
• VDX's NCIP to work with SIRSI Unicorn				?	?	?						
• VDX NICP Gateway for VDX to work with III				?	?	?						
• Major VDX upgrade with MORE suggestions				?	?	?						
• Federated searching in WorldCat				?	?	?						
Key Equinox Developments, e.g.:				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
• Development w/ Talis of Jangle as platform for Fulfillment LAI (Legacy Automation Integrator)				?	?	?						
Other Developments				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
KEY SWRS PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND DECISIONS:												
Solicit interest of NISO and other Library Resource-Sharing Project to Expedite NCIP Implementations				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Request ILS Vendors' Collaboration w/ OCLC				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Develop Library funding support for a Next-Generation SWRS				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Decide GO/NO GO on SWRS RFP or alternative process							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				