SRCS phase two enrollment announced

By Steven J. Schmidt

In August, the Indiana State Library (ISL), in partnership with about 130 public, academic and special libraries, launched phase one of Indiana's new Statewide Remote Circulation System (SRCS). SRCS links together the catalogs of all of these Indiana libraries into a single "super- catalog" where authorized users can search their collections and request to have materials delivered to the user's home library.

SRCS, which is pronounced "circs," currently features a virtual statewide catalog drawn from 52 academic libraries, 113 public libraries and two special libraries, including ISL. The combined catalog contains over 30 million items, which is larger than the collections of the Library of Congress or the Harvard University Library. Not everything that appears in the SRCS catalog can be borrowed, though. Each individual library defines what materials they are willing to offer through SRCS. Typically this excludes reference materials, e-books or items in high-demand locally.

Once users have been authorized by their home library, they can log in and search the SRCS catalog in order to locate materials. If a participating library owns that item, and it is shown as currently checked in and if that item is in a loanable location and in a loanable format, then the user will see a Request This Item button. The system identifies the logged in user and the desired item, so the request goes directly to a library where that item is currently available.

This should greatly reduce library staff labor for those searching and requesting interlibrary loan (ILL) materials using a traditional staff-mediated process. Since SRCS uses the library's own online catalog, the success rate should be better than an ILL request based upon cataloging record.

Starting on Dec. 1, 2016, a 60-day registration window for libraries interested in participating in phase two of the SRCS program will open. Participation in SRCS is strictly voluntary. Since the state library has agreed to pay the setup and annual connection fee for all participants, there is no cost to the participating libraries for joining this service. There are some add-in programs which have some cost, however, such as NCIP, but they are not needed to join the system. Potential participants should be warned that they could see an increase in the volume of resource sharing both from their collection and for their patrons.

If your library is interested in joining SRCS phase two, you are invited to submit a letter of intent, which is due by Jan. 31, 2017. Copies of this letter are available here.

At that time, all of the information collected will be turned over to Auto-Graphics, who will begin setting up the individual accounts. In March and April, Auto-Graphics and the state library will host a series of day long training sessions around the state. In May and June, the phase two libraries will start to go live.

For more information about the SRCS program, please contact Statewide Services at StatewideServices@library.in.gov or call [1-800-451-6028](tel:1-800-451-6028).