

Executive Director

NLLS REPORT



Director's Symposium:

Innovative Interfaces

Exciting new developments coming through Innovative such as the app My Library – all modules for LEAP, new interfaces for Polaris and a new Simply Reports that is directly integrated with Polaris.

However, to be able to have all the bangs and whistles TRAC must move from a license (where we own the software) to a subscription. TRAC will be discussing this in the up-coming director's meetings.

Innovative have gone through significant staffing changes in upper management and in software developers. All their sierra developers were fired January and the Polaris developers have taken on their roles, hence the delay in Polaris tickets being dealt with. TRAC director's will be meeting with the CEO of Innovative in April to voice their concerns.

Advocacy Course:

An email went out on Friday 23rd February, about the Advocacy course developed by NLLS, Marigold, Peace Library System and the Northern Lakes College that is specific to libraries. The first pilot course is due to start March 12th and finishes May 14th. This is a certified program.

There are 24 places available, 8 from each system. The 8 spots have been filled for NLLS.

Dates to Remember

- ◆ Advocacy course:
March 12th – May 14th
- ◆ Last day to register for a room in Jasper is 9th March.
- ◆ Jasper Conference 25th - 29th April
- ◆ Northern Lights Conference 20th – 21st September

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New Hires:

Northern Lights have hired three new librarians, Colleen Nyssen and Anna Scott for the public services and Lois Quail as the Assistant Director. Lois started in November 2017 and has settled in nicely in her new role. Colleen, will take over the position from the Indigenous Liaison, Tanya Fontaine. Due to other commitments, Anna will not be able to join us until late spring as the new Public Library Services Consultant/Programmer. We also have a new hire in the ILL department with Crystal Boorse.

Hoopla:

Even though the check outs for Hoopla have gone down from 10 to 8 to 5, the cost continues to rise. On average, NLLS is spending in the region of \$5,550 a month usage, with audiobooks being the major factor in rising costs.

There are 5 scenarios for the libraries to consider:

1. Drop the per-use from the current 5 checkouts a month
2. Drop the cap from \$3.99 to \$2.99
3. NLLS puts in \$2500 a month and it is a first come first serve, when the money runs out patrons must wait for the top up the following month.
4. Drop Hoopla completely
5. Continue as we are

Addendum: At the Library Manager's Council Meeting (LMC) the library managers decided to drop the checkout of Hoopla from 5 to 2.

Legal:

The town of Legal have expressed an interest in joining NLLS. Public Library Services Branch and NLLS will be presenting on the 28th March to discuss their options.

Committees:

NLLS have recruited innovative librarians to help NLLS meet their needs. Two committees have been formed:

1. Idea Hub: for programming and database selection – 9 libraries + NLLS Staff
2. Conference: 5 librarians + NLLS staff