



Benefits/Risks of PrairieCat Full Participation FY2010

The following highlights benefits and risks of joining the PrairieCat consortium in PALS. We believe that patrons would gain much easier access to a wealth of resources and tools if Mount Morris Public Library were a full participating member of the proposed consortium. Please find below a brief listing of the key advantages of consortial membership and also a listing of possible disadvantages (depending upon how you look at them) to consider when becoming a consortial member:

- I. Benefits
 - a. One catalog provides more resources, over 1.6 million titles, for patrons. One catalog makes it easier for our increasingly mobile patrons to find and seamlessly access *on their own* these resources in a much larger pool of libraries. Patrons of libraries that do not fully participate in the consortium must have library staff place the holds into the catalog for them, increasing staff costs for the library and reducing effectiveness for the patron.
 - b. Patron/technical service innovations more available with larger group. Purchase of new software is more cost effective when shared with many.
 - c. Access to more SirsiDynix products with minimal upfront cost and reduced ongoing costs:
 - i. Director's Station – Software that allows natural-language queries, calculations, and dropping and dragging of data elements to create management-level data for analysis of an institution, its collections, and users. Allows for the easy creation of reports/presentations for Boards and other groups.
 - ii. PocketCirc license – Software that allows staff client software to be loaded on handheld devices to perform staff functions from any location in the library either wired or wireless.
 - iii. Redesigned iBistro Public Catalog with plans to incorporate federated searching and next generation catalog functions such as tagging and more robust searching with AquaBrowser.
 - iv. Consortial licenses for SIP2 and NCIP – Software necessary to add devices such as Self-Checks, PC Management systems, etc.
 - d. Reduced costs for non-SirsiDynix purchasing of products/services to be used in the ILS for patrons on a consortial basis: e.g., joint purchase of best sellers to reduce wait time for patrons, add'l databases included in federated searching.
 - e. More efficient workflow for staff to fill and track requests. Libraries that are not part of the shared catalog have extra work to handle reciprocal borrowing patrons and interlibrary loans to their patrons and from them.
 - f. More peer libraries with which you may work on innovations.
 - g. Shared cataloging reduces individual libraries' need to add new bibliographic records.

- h. Specialized quality staff available to deal with ILS system issues. These staff members are available to assist the staff craft the SirsiDynix modules, i.e., PocketCirc, Director's Station, Collection Exchange, for the benefit of the library patrons on an ongoing basis.
- i. Clout or weight with ILS vendor and other vendors
- j. Easier access to ILS training

II. Risks

Governance structure is by the consortium, not by an individual library. As a member of the PrairieCat Delegates Assembly, the library would be entitled to one vote (equal to all other fully-participating members) in consortial decision-making.

III. Costs

We are happy to provide an estimate for the annual cost of a library to be a member of the PrairieCat consortium. This estimate is developed using the currently agreed upon cost model with the library membership. However, this is an estimate and final costs are dependent on when a library joins the consortium.