

FACT SHEET

New Virtual Catalog Implementation

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to begin implementation of a new virtual catalog for libraries throughout the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts Virtual Catalog system, URSA, is now over ten years old. Sirsi/Dynix, the system vendor, has declared that the product is “end-of-life”, and no further development will take place on this platform. Massachusetts cannot add new members to the Virtual Catalog. Existing members, as they have migrated to different integrated library system solutions, are unable to continue to participate in resource sharing over the Virtual Catalog. Other members have never been able to fully leverage the main strength of URSA, patron-initiated requesting, due to system incompatibilities.

Though the vast majority of interlibrary lending takes place among members of the same automated network virtual Catalog loans represent those materials that cannot be found on the patron’s home system. Without the Virtual Catalog, these requests would need to be handled via mediated interlibrary loan through the Massachusetts Library System, a much more expensive process that disempowers the user. The Virtual Catalog is the only system that can truly make available the broad array of library materials in the Commonwealth to all residents.

Massachusetts needs a state-of-the-art solution to replace the current Virtual Catalog. The new system will allow all interested library systems to participate and will provide better integration with local systems and the contemporary discovery tools, so that electronic content can be found right alongside more traditional, returnable, library materials. Participating libraries and systems will have more ability to customize the experience for their patrons. Library users will themselves have more choice. The statewide delivery system will more effectively handle Virtual Catalog materials. Mobile devices and tablets will be supported.

Activities under this grant include: contracting with a Virtual Catalog system provider based on the results of the FY12 procurement process, bringing up the new baseline system, designing a migration strategy for current members, profiling member systems and branches within the new system, and migrating at least five Virtual Catalog members onto the replacement Virtual Catalog during FY13.

MASSACHUSETTS LONG-RANGE PLAN GOAL

Goal 1: Massachusetts residents, no matter where they live, will find and obtain the resources they need using an improved technological infrastructure that links all types of libraries and provides and coordinates shared electronic resources. Residents will have access to digitized images of unique and valuable resources, improved access tools, and properly preserved physical and electronic materials.

ELIGIBILITY AND NETWORK RESPONSIBILITIES

Any library or cooperating group that is part of the current Massachusetts Virtual Catalog is eligible to apply.

ANTICIPATED FUNDING

There is a total of \$400,000 available for FY2013.

INTERESTED?

Applicants must submit a **Letter of Intent** form with the “New Virtual Catalog Implementation” option checked off under **TYPE**. For additional information about this program, please contact Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist, at the MBLC by phone 800-952-7403 ext. 238, or email paul.kissman@state.ma.us.