A New Era for Resource Sharing in Connecticut

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

The State Library is partnering with Bibliomation to co-develop and pilot a sustainable, new Open Source statewide union catalog and inter-library loan system. The State Library is working with Bibliomation because of our extensive experience with Open Source in a consortia setting. The product we will be using is an offshoot of the Evergreen ILS called fullILLment. Over the coming weeks and months we will be working closely with State Library staff to develop this project. Bibliomation will not be providing a statewide ILS. More information will be provided in the coming weeks and months as this project moves forward.

Carl DeMilia, Executive Director

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Message from Bibliomation

To: Connecticut Library Community
From: Kendall F. Wiggin
Date: April 16, 2015
Subject: Changes to reQuest

Faced with a nearly $100,000 reduction in funding for iCONN and reQuest this fiscal year and in each of the next two fiscal years, I have opted to maintain the current iCONN databases and replace reQuest. Consequently, reQuest will shut down on June 30, 2015 for at least two months while we bring online a new union catalog and interlibrary loan system.

I am pleased to report that the State Library, through the Division of Library Development, is partnering with Bibliomation to implement a new union catalog and interlibrary loan system by Fall of 2015.

I realize that this will mean a disruption in service over the summer, but with your patience and understanding, we will have a new, more cost effective, resource sharing system which will allow for the savings we need to continue to provide the residents of Connecticut with high quality information resources and a robust resource sharing system.

Some of you may be asking - why aren't we fighting to restore this budget cut as well? I can only say that in this current budget climate I think the right strategy has been to focus on saving the programs that were proposed for elimination and restoring as much of that funding as possible. The decision I have made regarding reQuest will leave us less vulnerable to future increases in database costs as well as potential rescissions over the next biennium.

Let me reiterate that we are not permanently eliminating this important service. Rather, after 25 years, we are taking this opportunity to totally rethink it.

Division of Library Development staff stand ready to help you through this transition. Specific information relating to the shutdown of reQuest can be found at http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dlid/connintochanges

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.
Migration of iCONN / reQuest Web Pages

For the latest information about the changes to iCONN.org and reQuest effective July 1, 2015, please visit: http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/iconninfo/changes.

The iCONN.org domain will transfer from Auto-Graphics to BlueHost.com on or soon after July 1 (domain changes take time to propagate through the network). When you visit iCONN.org, the home page, classic menu, popular magazine and newspaper pages will have a different look but their link names will not change as long as the link names you are currently using conform to those listed here: http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/c.php?g=212797&p=1490288

All iCONN and reQuest site map pages have moved to LibGuides. Visit the Connecticut State Library Division of Library Development page to access the various iCONN / reQuest LibGuides: http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/home.

ShUTDOWN OF iCONN / reQUEST

Shutdown of reQuest Interlibrary Loan and Cataloging Services June 30, 2015

The reQuest catalog will be discontinued after June 30, 2015. All reQuest services will end on that day and starting July 1, 2015, you will no longer have access to the system.

If you are using reQuest as a source of MARC records to download to your local system, you will no longer have access to this source. A Connecticut CatExpress group is available as an option for libraries (with some restrictions).

If your library relies exclusively on reQuest for your library catalog because you do not have a local system, you will need to find an alternative catalog host. Please contact Gail Hurley if your library falls into this category.

A LibGuide has been created by Gail Hurley to address the cataloging issues and options available to libraries: http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/request/catalogshutdown. The LibGuide will be updated on an ongoing basis through June 30, 2015.

Steve Cauffman, reQuest ILL Coordinator, has put together a LibGuide page on shutting down reQuest ILL. The information includes ending new patron-initiated requests, stopping new pending requests, retrieving reQuest ILL statistics, participation by some libraries in the Out-of-State ILL (ISSI) service through reQuest, and much more. The LibGuide will be updated on an ongoing basis through June 30, 2015 and can be found at: http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/request/shuttingdownill.

If your library participates in the reQuest statewide interlibrary loan system, you will need to find alternative methods of interlibrary loan during the transition to a new service. A page has also been created that lists library catalogs, has links to blank ALA ILL forms and will have a link to the CT ILL Loan Policies when created. This page can be found at: http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/request/summer.

Because it is unknown how long it will take to bring up a new system (the goal is the Fall of 2015), current reQuest participants will not be billed the annual fee for the July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016 fiscal year. The only billing will be for CatExpress group services received from OCLC. CatExpress will be open to libraries statewide with some restrictions.