



Central Library Consortium  
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To Central Library Consortium Member Libraries:

Thanks to the support and dedicated hard work of so many, 2013 has been an incredible year for the Central Library Consortium (CLC)! In May of this year, the consortium launched a new version of the Polaris Integrated Library System software and added three new members: Columbus Metropolitan Library, Southwest Public Libraries and Worthington Libraries. Our eleven member consortium is now one of the busiest Polaris installations in the entire world.

There are many numbers that could be used to illustrate our incredible growth this year, but I would like to focus on a single data point - 1.3 million. Over 1.3 million items moved between library systems in 2013 to fulfill hold requests. Assuming an average cost of fifteen dollars per item, this represents almost **20 million dollars in shared resources!** From the smallest library system to the largest, every CLC member played an important part meeting the needs of library patrons in the Central Ohio area. Thanks to all member libraries for such an incredible display of shared services and responsible use of tax payer investments.

This spirit of collaboration manifested itself in many other ways throughout year. The staff at Worthington hosted a hands on training session for member libraries' IT staff to learn more about Windows automated deployment tools. Members worked together on several metadata cleanup projects, including one that made Overdrive eBooks easier to find in the catalog. This year also saw the launch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) Kid's Card. CML modeled their program after a similar project that was first implemented by our smallest consortium member, the Alexandria Public Library. Both programs aim to help all children gain access to important reading materials by partnering directly with local school systems.

We look forward to building on our momentum in the year ahead. In the first half of the year, we plan to add three additional member libraries. It will be exciting to see the new ideas and energy that these members will bring to the group. One thing is certain, in 2014, we will continue to collaborate with all members to bring the benefits of shared services to member libraries and their communities.

Charles "Wes" Osborn  
Executive Director of Information Technology  
Central Library Consortium

## Highlights from the Central Library Consortium in 2014

### Continued partnership with Polaris staff and other Polaris Libraries:

- Submitted dozens of enhancements to Polaris and participated in the PUG enhancements process
- Held several in-depth sessions with Polaris product analysts focusing on Polaris notices, the Patron Access Catalog and the Polaris upgrade process
- Hosted annual Ohio PUG meeting
- Presented two highly attended sessions at the National PUG Conference
- Open sourced SIP testing tool and provided a executable version accessible to all libraries, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first freely available resource of its kind available anywhere

### Other key technical accomplishments:

- Installed new highly available firewall devices centrally at CLC datacenter and upgraded several firewall devices used at member libraries
- Migrated Southwest email to CLC's Exchange platform
- Moved CLC datacenter with less than 12 hours of downtime
- Released Author Subscription Tool in beta at Grandview which will allow patrons to "subscribe" and automatically be placed on holds for new releases by popular authors
- Began using Microsoft System Center for better management of our production, development and training server environments
- Developed relationship with new technology partner, Sophisticated Systems, to assist member libraries with in-depth IT projects that are outside the scope of CLC services
- Created new Polaris hardware environment, with redundant network and server equipment and "real time" replicas of the Polaris database hosted onsite and offsite at the Fairfield District County Library

### Added new support methods and improved on others:

- Launched <http://chat.clcoho.org> which is now used regularly by IT staff to ask quick questions or alert CLC of any service issues
- Refreshed our public website ([www.clcoho.org](http://www.clcoho.org)) and launched on a new hosting platform with more frequent updates in our News & Events section
- Consolidated our Polaris SharePoint site, moving from nine sub-sites down to one, making it easier for members to keep up to date on all Polaris happenings in one place