

## GMILCS Retreat Discussion Topics

1. Do we want to pursue the question of opening patron requests to other libraries?  
Is this an extension of service within the philosophy of GMILCS or is this something new?  
What is the value to the customer, do we have the resources, and is this within the laws of our jurisdictions? What are the issues that we would have to explore further? What would be the impact on the library staff and the GMILCS staff? Would it be acceptable for libraries to choose not to participate? What guidelines or restrictions are acceptable and/or necessary? What stumbling blocks do we anticipate needing to overcome?
2. Is the structure of GMILCS working?  
The evaluation of the Board shows that some aspects of our structure are not clear or are not working smoothly. Do we have the right committees? Do we need both committees and SIGs? Does each body know its authority and responsibility? Does the board need to further define the purpose of the various bodies? Do our bylaws match what we need to be doing? Are there questions about the role of the GMILCS staff?
3. What's our plan for Horizon 8 or another ILS?  
Horizon 8 has been in development for more than three years and SirsiDynix is scheduling implementations a year out. Since it is an entirely different architecture, and because it will require new central hardware, we are viewing it as a migration, although the software costs are part of our maintenance charges. What are the steps we need to take? Do we want to consider other library systems? If so, how do we identify the features and functionality that are important to us? Is it the time to appoint a task force and if so, what is their charge?
4. What do we want in an online catalog?  
What features and functionality are critical; which are desirable? How important are individuality and customization compared with new features such as RSS and popularity ranking? How comfortable would we be with a catalog that changes frequently? How do we want the catalog to integrate with library web pages, databases and the Internet?
5. Authority control: how much is it worth?  
Authority control in cataloging allows the patrons to see all items by the same author or subject heading together. Authority control is almost impossible to maintain within the day-to-day cataloging process, and large libraries usually contract it out. The cost for GMILCS would be approximately \$15,000 for the initial clean-up and about \$2,000-3,000 per year.
6. Is it time to join NELINET?  
If we get our OCLC records ourselves without going through the NHSL, we would have our own symbol for WorldCat and Open WorldCat. We would still be submitting our holdings for NHU-Pac.