

**From:** Duncan, James  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2008 5:16 PM  
**To:** 'cpld@listserve.com'  
**Subject:** What's with all the ILS talk?

During recent weeks, there has been a lot of discussion about Integrated Library Systems (ILSs). If you're confused about what's going on, who's leading this, where it's all going, and more...welcome to the party.

What I can offer you is a list I have assembled. It details the convergence of events, discussions, initiatives, and more--all related to ILS, next-generation ILS, statewide ILS and open-source ILS...

Now you all know as much as I do about what's going on around Colorado. As a final note, I'm delighted to hear that so many public library directors are engaged in this emerging statewide conversation about the future of ILSs for their libraries.

Regards to all,  
-Jim

Jim Duncan, Director  
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#### **ILS-Related Background List for Colorado**

**Initiative:** Fall 2007 - Jim Duncan formed a statewide task force to study the viability of a statewide ILS based on open-source software. A public Google Groups site was created, which hosts (literally) every discussion, recordings of every conference call, references to materials read by the task force, and more. After more than eight months, a draft version of a whitepaper has been produced. This paper lays out highlights, in the form of pros, cons and costs. The core task force is reviewing that whitepaper and revising. The revised paper will be released (still as draft) to the broader Colorado library community through the Google Groups site within the next two weeks (Target: July 30 or earlier). Reference for Google Groups site: <http://groups.google.com/group/open-source-co-libraries>

**Discussions:** At the spring CLiC Workshops provided in Grand Junction, Greeley and Pueblo, a session on open-source software (generally) was offered. One part of that session included a case study: use of the Koha open-source ILS by the John C. Fremont Library in Florence, CO. To our knowledge, this is still the only library in the state running an open-source-based ILS in full production mode. Communication has been successful between that ILS system and the SWIFT system managed by the State Library.

**Meeting:** May 7 & 8, at the ASCC/CHUG meeting in Westminster, Jim Duncan gave a brief presentation on both days. He facilitated a discussion with attendees about the future of open-source ILS. Along with members of the task force able to attend this meeting, Jim provided some broad information points that had been learned by the task force during the past several months.

**Meeting:** May 13, the metro-area library directors met over lunch. Jim Duncan was asked to attend to give some background on what had been learned about open-source ILS and the viability for a statewide ILS. He provided some broad strokes information about the research process and some high points--some of the things that the task force had learned during the past several months.

**Meeting:** May 27 & 28, at the public library directors forum in Aspen, there was discussion about a statewide ILS, with interest expressed by some of those in attendance.

Initiative: June. Jamie Larue at Douglas County and other public library directors who were interested decided to gather more information about the power of cooperative purchasing / operation in an ILS world. There is particular interest in the possibility of a statewide ILS (without any preconceived notions about whether or not such an ILS should be vendor-based or open-source). Recently, Jamie spearheaded a call for directors to fill out an online survey, gathering information about what public libraries are spending related to their ILS and what timeframe libraries are considering for a potential migration/upgrade to a new ILS. Library Research Service provided support for the survey and recently (early July) has gathered the results. The State Library will be distributing a summary of these results shortly.

Initiative: May/June/July. As a result of interest building in various pockets of the state, there has been discussion about hosting a statewide ILS "summit." Valerie Horton (CLiC), Alan Charnes (Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries) and Jim Duncan are meeting on Tuesday, July 29 to brainstorm what such a summit may look like. It is Jim's hope that after such brainstorming, the discussion would be opened up to bring others into some kind of program-planning group. This "summit" could possibly (or not) resemble something like the conference in Boise, July 21-22 (<http://www.bcr.org/nextgenils/>).

Event: July 21-22. A scheduled conference in Boise titled: "Next Generation ILS--Mashed Up, Fried or Half-Baked?" Coordinated by the Idaho Commission of Libraries and BCR. Various individuals from Colorado are likely to be in attendance. Reference: <http://www.bcr.org/nextgenils/index.html>

Initiative: Janine Reid at the High Plains Library District spearheads a call for libraries interested in discussing the future of ILS to participate in a conference call/meeting. This is scheduled for 9-10:30, July 22.

Publication: The draft whitepaper on the viability of a statewide ILS based on open-source will be released to the "world" shortly after the Task Force chews on the document and revises it. Jim Duncan has promoted this whitepaper as something intended to help educate folks around the state and get them all on common footing about the high-level pros, cons and costs associated with a statewide ILS, based specifically on open-source software. This is not an exhaustive, definitive report with decisions or recommendations, but rather another "reference," for library decision makers to consider along with all of the rest of the information spinning around Colorado.

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