

**Survey results about Integrated Library System costs and plans**

A survey was developed by LRS and distributed through the CPLD list within a few days of the May director’s meeting in Aspen. The purpose was to assess existing hardware, software, and personnel costs associated with existing integrated library systems (ILS) in public libraries, as well as gauge interest in a statewide consortial ILS.

There is a wide variation in what is spent on ILS-related services. Responses indicate just over \$1.78 million is spent annually on existing ILS for all hardware, software, fees, personnel, training, and other costs by the 26 survey participants.

Notably, 20 libraries indicated they would pay \$366,170 in annual fees for a consortial ILS. However, this same group currently pays \$1,106,716 in annual ILS fees. The disparity between these two figures requires further discussion as to exactly how much may, ultimately, be available to support such a project.

While 25 libraries expressed interest generally in a consortial ILS, 12 said they have no plans for an ILS change in the next three years. This would seem to indicate that while interest exists, there isn’t an immediate need to rush into creating a model statewide ILS.

Planning for a coordinated, scalable system begun over the next 6 to 12 months would likely accommodate a majority of those saying they may change their ILS within the next three years. Some of the public libraries that didn’t respond—as well as school and academic libraries not surveyed—would likely participate in a consortial system if one were to be created by a core group of interested libraries.

**What libraries say they are willing to pay for a consortial ILS**

Out of the 26 responding libraries, 16 libraries indicate they are willing to invest about \$373,000 in a consortial ILS for initial set-up. Responses ranged from \$500 to \$150,000. Notably, 5 libraries indicated zero and five skipped the question.

Twenty libraries indicate they are willing to invest a total of \$366,170 for annual fees and maintenance. Responses ranged from \$100 to \$90,000.

The chart below compares the amount libraries said they are willing to invest in set-up costs and fees, and when they may consider a different ILS.

When to move	# of libraries considering	Set-up toward consortial ILS	Fees toward consortial ILS
12 months	2	\$16,880	\$4,470
13-24 months	10	\$243,000	\$190,000
36+ months	13	\$113,000	\$171,000

**Current spending to maintain existing ILS**

22 libraries reported spending a total of just over \$803,000 on annual maintenance/fees, the largest ILS expense. Responses ranged from \$500 to \$200,000, with an average of just under \$35,000. However, given that the data set is small and varies widely, totals and subtotals may be more reliable indicators of expenses than averages or medians.

The second largest hardware/software cost was “add-ons and other”, with ten libraries totaling just over \$198,000. Responses ranged from \$0 to \$82,000. Four reported spending a total of \$99,500 on servers.

Personnel costs were provided by 24 libraries. Of those, 13 said “IT support” totaled \$456,000, with responses ranging from \$500 to \$152,000. “IT coordinator”, reported by just three libraries was a total of \$139,220.

Ten libraries spent a total of \$92,194 on training and other costs. Responses ranged from \$0 to \$12,000. It is not clear whether the remaining libraries do not incur these and other costs cited above, or lacked data to report accurately.

**Demographics of survey respondents**

- 26 of 115 public libraries replied. 25 said they’re interested in participating (1 no response).
- Legal service area of responding libraries ranged from 627 to 580,223.
- Responding libraries serve just over 2 million, or 44% of the state’s population.
- Geographic representation: ten reside in metropolitan counties; eight from west/southwest; four from north, east, and southeast combined; four from south-central.