INTRODUCTION

The 2024-25 ILS evaluation process included vendor demonstrations as well as in-person and virtual visits to libraries currently using reviewed software products. Both Polaris and SirsiDynix have some shared positive cataloging attributes, including brief bib templates, real time indexing, fast response time on bibs with many items, the ability to batch edit non-alphanumeric data, functionality with all spine label printers, many options for spine label customization and batch printing, many canned reports and reporting abilities, suppressed Fast Adds, extensive logs of edits and changes, granular search options, and the ability to add new author names to a BSE without creating a new authority. Both Polaris and SirsiDynix do still have functionality that is only available in their respective clients, but both are focused on putting more and more functionality into their web-based services and are no longer adding new functionality to their clients.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

[Cataloging (ILS Evaluation 2024-25)](#)

SYSTEM REVIEWS

Polaris

The majority of the vendor demonstrations and site visits featured Polaris Leap.

Pros
- Brief bib templates
- Real time indexing
- Fast response time on bibs with many items
- Ability to batch edit non-alphanumerical data
- Functionality with all spine label printers
- Many options for spine label customization and batch printing
- Many options for canned reports and reporting abilities, including the option to email results
- Fast Adds can be suppressed from patron view by default
- Extensive log of edits and changes for item and bib records
- Offers granular search options for staff, including many search indexes
- Ability to add new author names to BSEs without creating a new authority record
- Extensive vendor documentation and support available
- User Group available
- Browse indexes – especially call number browse which can be searched from the Bib or the Item records
- Record sets
- Ability to see only item codes/templates that your library uses
- Ability to see and edit MARC records side-by-side should be live by the time we would switch
- List of items on bib records shows 750 items per page
- List of items on bib records includes a search box and "local items" tab

Cons
- Record locks
- List of items is paginated
- Item Statuses are limited (Can be renamed but function as the original Status)
- Mandatory fields in item records are predefined by Polaris

SirsiDynix

The majority of the vendor demonstrations featured BlueCloud and SymphonyWeb. The site visit featured SirsiDynix Workflows, the client software which has the same interface as SymphonyWeb.

Pros

- Brief bib templates
- Real time indexing
- Fast response time on bibs with many items
- Ability to batch edit non-alphanumerical data
- Functionality with all spine label printers
- Many options for spine label customization and batch printing
- Many options for canned reports and reporting abilities, including the option to email results
- Fast Adds can be suppressed from patron view by default
- Extensive log of edits and changes for item and bib records
- Offers granular search options for staff, including many search indexes
- Ability to add new author names to BSEs without creating a new authority record
- Extensive vendor documentation and support available
- User Group available
- Browse ability by any index
- Ability to see OCLC record side-by-side when editing a record
- Can batch add items to an existing bib record

Cons

- No clear "Available" status – location fields work together to decide whether or not an item is "Available"
- Can't scan barcodes into batch item edit – have to scan into separate file and upload that file
- Interaction between BlueCloud and SymphonyWeb adds complexity

Bibliovation

We did not have vendor demonstrations or visits for Bibliovation. Assessments are based on our current experience of the software.

Pros

- Ability to see non-MARC labels in Cataloging Editor
- No record locks
- Brief bib templates
- Real time indexing

Cons

- Slow response times on bibs with lots of items
- Lacks canned reports for Cataloging
- No browse indexes for staff
- Vendor documentation is sparse and support is limited
- No User Group
- Fast Adds cannot be suppressed from patron view by default
- Difficult to identify Fast Adds for reports and cleanup
- Missing duplicate ISBN checking (this is not in production, but it is in the sandbox)
- Limited built-in options for spine label customization
- Batch item editor view is not specific to library
- Sporadic but frequent delays with real time indexing
- Session defaults are lost when browser tab is refreshed or a new tab is opened

- New author names on BSEs require creating new authority records, which is clunky

RECOMMENDATION

The Cataloging Workgroup has a slight preference for Polaris with SirsiDynix as a close second choice, but either of the two products would work. The Cataloging Workgroup does not recommend Bibliovation.