Technology Report
December, 2024 / January, 2025

Systems Administration

- SCLS has started deploying Office 2021 to staff PCs. We are holding off on Office 2024 for now, because it does not include Publisher.
- SCLS began deploying Windows 11 Feature Update 24H2. It ended up breaking Microsoft Excel on some PCs. The fix has been to upgrade Office to version 2021.
- SCLS has bought Windows Server 2025. We will begin testing it and upgrading our Windows servers soon.
- Our server virtualization software was updated to the latest versions. We are also in the process of renewing the maintenance for the software for another three years.
- The maintenance for our server backups and digital archive expires in May of 2026. In February, we will be meeting with a few other library systems to determine if it is feasible to collaborate again for the replacement solutions.

- Andrew Hoks

Microsoft 365

All libraries with SCLS-hosted Microsoft 365 email are live with our new security configurations. Information about email and forms to request new / changes to /deletion of accounts can be found here on the SCLS website: https://www.scls.info/office-365.

We have retired the old "Request a new account" form and replaced it with the new "Request an account or shared mailbox form" which has some additional questions related to MFA and shared mailbox access.

- Kerri Hilbelink

MyPC login issues

In early January, library staff reported some strange login issues. In the process of investigating, we ran across some instances where the wrong patron data had been associated with a card number in MyPC.

We addressed the immediate login issue, confirmed with our vendor it is likely a repeat of last May's login issue, and narrowed down the cause to the DL Note field of certain BV patron records. We have put measures in place to identify affected patron records and notify us if they are found so we can correct them before they cause trouble in MyPC.

We are working with the vendor to correct the mismatched patron data in MyPC.

We'd like to remind library staff to NOT enter return characters in the "DL Note" of a patron record in Bibliovation. Return characters in the "DL note" field will cause issues with SIP lookups by MyPC and selfchecks.

- Kerri Hilbelink

Server upgrades

Staff worked with a vendor to coordinate some upgrades to servers handling ILS-related tasks. A second round of upgrades for servers providing web-related services is scheduled for early February.

- Kerri Hilbelink

E-Rate

Libraries participating in E-rate in the 2025/2026 cycle will receive an email with the forms that need to be completed by February 29.

- Craig Ellefson

Data Services

New and updated data dashboards:

- 2024 Circulation – Top 20 lists – This dashboard is an updated version (using 2024 data) of the dashboard I first published last year, which was a response to multiple requests from libraries for year-end summary lists of the most popular titles. Along with the data update, I made some minor formatting changes to the 2024 dashboard headers. The changes include individual library logos as well as color-coding the header text to match (where possible) the theming from library websites. These small edits will, hopefully, make it easier for users to download the lists and integrate them into library marketing materials or reports.
- Home Library Cardholders by Age Group and Circulation by Age Group – In January, I made the annual data updates to both of the "age group" dashboards to include data from 2024. Similar to the Top 20 lists dashboard, I also added library-specific elements to the dashboard headers, including logos, text colors, and header bar colors.
- Feedback – The library logos and color schemes I've included on the dashboards listed above (as well as other dashboards I've published, such as the Library Statistics Summary) represent my best guess at matching potential library marketing materials. In almost all cases, I based my decisions on the design theming of individual library websites, which may or may not be appropriate. I encourage libraries to contact me (tdrexler@scls.info) with feedback or suggestions for changes—my goal is to make these dashboards as user-friendly and as beneficial to libraries as possible.

- Tim Drexler

Yearly Online Database Subscriptions

Most of the yearly library database subscription changes have been completed. We are still waiting on Blackstone Unlimited to get all of the patron blocks setup in their system.

- Brian Hahn

Field Technician's Corner

A lot of PC orders. Libraries are either using up their budget or spending the new budget. Anna and myself (Emily) have been working though the current log of PC orders. Some small building/remodeling projects at libraries have found us out and about more often moving equipment around.

-Emily Peterson and Anna Remien

Network Services

- **BadgerNet/TEACH Generation 4 Migrations** – 94 % of BadgerNet libraries have migrated. BER, NEK, and RKS are left and have yet to be scheduled by AT&T. This should complete soon.
  - Included with the migrations, AT&T/DOA TEACH is upgrading all 50 Mbps bandwidth sites to 100 Mbps. It is unknown when this will be completed. The Network Team has proactively made adjustments in preparation for this upgrade and will verify once AT&T has completed their work.
- **SCLS Core Network Refresh**
  - Several significant pieces of the core network are due for replacement this year. The Network Team has been working on design, research and procurement.
- **2025 Library Site Network Refresh**
  - The Network Team has begun evaluating library site networks in preparation for their network refresh this year.
  - Sites include: ALM, HPB, MAD, MAR, MOO, PLO, ROS

-SCLS Network Team (Will Allington and Nick Oldenburg)