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Bringing 165 libraries together to create the initial phase of SRCS has been a learning experience for everyone involved. The staff at the State Library has been working with Auto-Graphics to get SRCS set up and learning the ins and outs of the *ShareIt* software.

Initially, we were recommending that most of the participating libraries should use the physical database for sharing their collection. The advantages included faster searches; however as we worked our way through the process we have learned that there are some issues with this plan that we did not foresee. One is that everything loaded into the physical database is loanable in SRCS. This causes a lot of extra work and planning on what each library decides to upload and limits what is displayed in the statewide catalog.

As we have learned more about how *ShareIt* works, it has become evident that the Z39.50 method is much more versatile when it comes to managing which collections and which items are allowed to circulate. For this reason we are now recommending that all SRCS libraries use the Z39.50 protocol, at least initially.

Each library is welcome to choose either the Z39.50 or the physical database, and they can change from one to the other at anytime. The Z39.50 method is a quick and easy way to get your library up and running in the system. Then, as we find problems, we work together to decide on whether the physical database is a better option a case-by-case basis.

On another issue, we have gotten a lot of questions on whether libraries have to be running NCIP in order to be a part of SRCS. While having NCIP is recommended, it is in no way required for any library running SRCS. The difference is that for non-NCIP libraries is that their staff will have to check materials in and out in both SRCS and their local ILS. Libraries running NCIP only have to check materials in or out in SRCS and then it will update their ILS.

We have been recommending that libraries try starting out without NCIP. This way they can get some experience with SRCS, and see if the extra work is worth the added price. This route also gives libraries time to budget for cost of NCIP in their next year's budget, if they decide that they need it.

-- Steve

Steven Schmidt
Library Development Office
Indiana State Library
315 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317.232.3715
steschmidt@library.in.gov

