RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Outagamie Waupaca and Winnefox Library Systems have a long history of cooperation; and

WHEREAS, each regional library system operates an integrated library automation system (ILS) in support of its member public libraries, namely OWLSnet and WALS; and

WHEREAS, each system, in the next year or two, faces significant decisions that will affect its future costs and automation platform use (hardware and software); and

WHEREAS, directors of libraries using both automation systems (OWLSnet and WALS) have expressed interest in exploring a move to a single shared ILS; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that staff and library directors from Winnefox Library System / WALS and Outagamie Waupaca Library System / OWLSnet actively research and discuss options for sharing an ILS; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Boards of Trustees of the Outagamie Waupaca and Winnefox Library Systems support this exploration; and be it further

RESOLVED, that regular progress reports of these discussions be made to both Boards.

_____   _____
President, Winnefox Library System   President, Outagamie Waupaca Library System
Board of Trustees   Board of Trustees

_____   _____
Secretary, Winnefox Library System   Secretary, Outagamie Waupaca Library System
Board of Trustees   Board of Trustees

_____   _____
Date   Date

To: OWLSnet & Winnefox library directors, trustees, and staff
From: Jeff Gilderson-Duwe and Bradley Shipps
Date: 5 January 2018
Re: ILS merger exploration discussion

Staff from the Outagamie Waupaca and Winnefox Library Systems have had initial talks about the desirability and possibility of merging our shared automation systems—the computer systems that our libraries use as a catalog, a patron database, and for checking items in and out. We believe this is a good time to explore this for several reasons:
- Both systems have major ILS decisions coming up in the next year or two: the OWLSnet database server is reaching the end of its expected lifespan, and the WALS contract with SirsiDynix is ending.
- The Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) project is recommending consolidation of ILS and other system services to create both larger areas of service and economies of scale.
- We believe that such a merger would be welcomed by libraries and library users, especially those along our common border.

We realize that this would require making some difficult decisions and compromises by both system and library staff on both sides. Questions we've already identified include:
- What ILS platform would we use: SirsiDynix, Innovative, or something else?
- How would costs be apportioned between the systems and libraries?
- What common policies and procedures would all libraries have to follow to balance the needs of all libraries in the larger shared environment with maintenance of local control?
- How will decisions affecting all members be made?
We know that other questions will come up as the discussion progresses.

Over the next few months each system's staff will be discussing this with its member library directors and system boards. If there is a consensus that merging ILSes is a desirable goal, a committee of representative library directors and system staff will be formed to discuss the issues. The committee will be charged with submitting a final recommendation by the end of 2018.

We welcome your questions and comments.

WALS includes 29 libraries in the 5 Winnefox counties. OWLSnet includes the 16 libraries in Outagamie and Waupaca Counties and 13 libraries in the 7 counties in the Nicolet Federated Library System. Some libraries have multiple service locations.

System	Libraries	Service Locations	Population Served	2016 Collection Size	2016 Total Circulation	2016 Total Cardholders
OWLSnet	29	49	423,534	1,552,308	3,648,967	236,620
WALS	29	29	258,368	1,209,903	3,017,243	111,159
Total	58	78	681,902	2,762,211	6,666,210	347,779