

Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) – V-Cat Strategic Plan 2017-2018

V-Cat Council serves a consortium of libraries to optimize user-oriented automated products and support to enable members to leverage costs, improve services, and facilitate improved communication within the context of the larger Wisconsin library network.

Statements of V-Cat Council Vision:

These statements clarify core expectations, which together form a vision of a well-functioning V-Cat Council. They are complimented by the list of broad strategies employed to fulfill the vision.

- **FOCUS ON THE USER** V-Cat focuses on services and technologies that directly benefit the end user.
- **INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES** V-Cat embraces innovative technologies to serve member libraries, and provide them in the most cost-effective manner. The consortium is flexible and capitalizes on the rapidly changing technological environment.
- **FUNDING** V-Cat members benefit from sustainable and ongoing funding by sharing the operational costs of the Integrated Library System (ILS).
- **HEALTHY CONSORTIUM** V-Cat builds strong, collaborative relationships among the member libraries.
- **EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE** The consortium provides an effective governance structure that allows full participation by all members in all types of libraries.

Broad Strategies to Accomplish the Consortium Vision

Specific actions to accomplish these strategies are developed by the WVLS/V-Cat Steering Committee and carried out by WVLS staff, V-Cat committees, and the V-Cat Council.

FOCUS ON THE USER

- Continue to expand access to the depth and richness of resources available for the user.
- Create a responsive environment through a combined suite of services and utilities. The common system will provide comprehensive discovery of books, articles, and digital assets.
- Ensure that planning for a future ILS focuses on user behavior and needs.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- Continue investigation of technology to serve member libraries, including library systems, discovery tools, and systems to store digital assets.
- Offer member-driven discussion of current technology, emerging services, and best practices.
- Continue to sponsor vendor demonstrations at meetings.
- Develop and implement systems that are scalable for all institutions.

FUNDING

- Use economies of scale to provide services for member libraries.
- Maintain a strong working relationship with the WVLS Office, legislators, and other funding sources.

HEALTHY CONSORTIUM

- Be sensitive and regularly re-evaluate the varying needs of member libraries due to size, funding streams, clientele, and geography.

- Foster broad involvement by utilizing a variety of communications methods, including electronic lists, webinars, and meetings.
- Use the skills and expertise of member librarians and WVLS staff to provide professional development opportunities for staff of member libraries with workshops and specialized training.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- Continue to ensure that member librarians participate in governance, despite finite budgets, staffing limitations, and geographic distance.

2017-2018 V-Cat Projects List:

- Explore Mobile Worklists from Innovative.
- Explore Innovative's Linked Data Project.
- Evaluate and review Discovery product.
- Seek more efficient mechanisms to improve services for patrons through collaborative efforts.
- Conduct mini-survey in September 2016 to prepare for 2017.
 - How would you feel about working more collaboratively with the Indianhead Federated Library System? Northern Waters Library System? Any other System?
 - What do you feel is the biggest barrier to working with another system?