MnLINK Gateway
Informational Session

Monday, May 5, 2008
Minnesota Library Information Network (MnLINK)

- MnLINK Gateway is a virtual library that provides access to Minnesota’s rich resources.
- Access to library catalogs and full-text articles.
- Unmediated patron initiated interlibrary loan requesting.
- Search by format, language, level (adult, general, juvenile)
MnLINK Gateway

- ZPORTAL/VDX software with 24 Gateway Server Sites
- ZPORTAL – search interface
- VDX – interlibrary loan
- Z39.50 standard used to search Gateway Server Sites
- 266 libraries included
- Public, academic, state government, school libraries participating
ZPORTAL/VDX - Who Owns It?

- OCLC owns the software and now includes it in their resource sharing options:
  - WorldCat Resource Sharing (WCRS)
  - ILLiad
  - VDX
MnLINK Gateway Request Volume

- Jul-Mar FY07 385,000
- Jul-Mar FY08 426,000

- Last year there were 500,000 transactions on the system
MnLINK Gateway – Requests Generated by Staff & Patrons

![Bar chart showing total requests from FY04 to FY07. The chart displays an increase in requests from FY04 to FY07, with FY07 having the highest total requests.](image)
Recent Events

- Upgrade to Version 3.2.2 - January 16
- Server Move to Dublin, Ohio - between March 14 -16
NCIP Testing

- NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol - Z39.83
- Traverse Des Sioux – Unicorn
- MnLINK sites on Unicorn
  - East Central
  - Anoka County
  - Plum Creek
  - Rochester Public
  - Scott County
- NCIP Gateway – Innovative interfaces Inc. and other ILS systems
ISO Testing

- Testing between the Ex Libris Aleph ILL software and the OCLC VDX software has been completed by the vendors.

- Next step will be testing between the MnLINK and MnPALS staff – then to libraries interested in trying this out.
Publication Date/Cost Enhancements – Amazon check

- Configure minimum price for a book
- Publication date less than xx months -- books and AV
- Article requests would be excluded
- Both date and price will be optional triggers
- Requests that meet the criteria for date/cost will go to staff review
Purchase on Demand

Recent development will allow for a link to Amazon from the staff search side of VDX only. This will give staff the option to purchase items that meet the date/cost criteria.
Future Plans for ZPORTAL/VDX

- Future direction for the software – Next Gen ILL
- Focus on staff efficiencies, workflow and delivery to end users
  - Home delivery
  - Digitization on demand
  - End user payment services
Next Version

- MARS Release – Fall 2008
- Date release of software
  - ZPORTAL gets WorldCat.org skin e.g. colors, logo
  - Last release w/enhancements for ZPORTAL
  - No end of life date set for ZPORTAL
Meeting with OCLC Staff at ALA – Jan ‘08

- Met to view the Unity UK revisions to the VDX system. These will be introduced with the MARS release. It will be optional. We can stay with the current staff interface.

- This version has big improvements in workflow. Including:
  - Use of “enter” key instead of clicking on “submit” button
  - Complete request display on one screen instead of multiple tabs
  - Login screen comes up as first screen
  - Work queue appears immediately after login
  - Windows features for manual rota building
  - First screen will display where request is in rota e.g. loc 3 of 6
  - Hyperlink from brief display to request details
  - And more!
ZPORTAL will be replaced by a new product - WorldCat Navigator

- Group catalog on the WorldCat.org platform with VDX as the ILL system and a WorldCat-like front-end

New discovery tool will be offered in two different ways:
1) As a physical union catalog using WorldCat Group Catalog
2) Alternative to union catalog approach. This option would have the federated search capabilities of ZPORTAL. It will include the “next gen OPAC” features that users expect - still in planning phase.
We have had discussions with OCLC staff to discuss how we might use WorldCat Navigator as a replacement to the ZPORTAL search interface. We emphasized that our assumptions were that we would be involved in the discussions in the early stages of this product development. We will keep the Gateway libraries informed.
Users Love It!

“What an amazing service! Thank you so much for allowing me to satisfy my addiction to murder mysteries from the 1930s and 1940s.”

“The MnLINK system has opened access to normally difficult or impossible to find videos. The video catalog is expansive and varied, with many, many almost impossible to find elsewhere tapes and discs.”
Questions?