Request for Information: PrairieCat Integrated Library System

AUGUST 3, 2026

A resource-sharing and ILS consortium
comprised of 136 member libraries in Northern Illinois

PrairieCat
220 W. 23rd Ave
Coal Valley, IL 61240

Statement of Intent

PrairieCat is evaluating integrated library system (ILS) software to ensure our organization is providing the best suite of staff-facing library automation software to support the needs of our consortium of libraries and their patrons. There are many requirements to consider when assessing both our current ILS as well as a potential new one. This document is intended to help collect useful information about these different areas. We would appreciate it if you supplied up-to-date and complete information about your product following our timeline below. This will allow PrairieCat and its stakeholders to identify the best product for our current and future needs.

PrairieCat asks for the right to circulate your company's response internally among our member library directors, boards of trustees, and staff. The responses will be subject to open records requests after a procurement decision is made, if one is made. Submission of a response by your company signifies acceptance of this condition.

About PrairieCat

PrairieCat is a multi-type library consortium in northern Illinois and is primarily funded by member library contributions. PrairieCat functions as a resource-sharing consortium underpinned by a common ILS. PrairieCat's members are 136 independent public libraries, school districts, and academic libraries across 22 counties in northern and north-central Illinois. These member libraries join PrairieCat by voluntarily by signing an Intergovernmental agreement. Thus, PrairieCat is an intergovernmental instrumentality of the state. Appendix A includes a list of member libraries along with their patron count and a summary of their annual circulations for 2025.

The PrairieCat central office is based in Coal Valley, IL. The Reaching Across Illinois Library System, a system constituted under the state, facilitates system-wide physical delivery service to every library building in the system. Each library building has delivery service at least once a week, some daily. PrairieCat also offers training and technical support for our range of services.

PrairieCat staff, consisting of 12 employees, manage the shared library automation system using Sierra from Innovative Interfaces, a part of Clarivate. PrairieCat uses Vega Discover as our public-facing Catalog and Vega Mobile as our mobile app. The moblie app is currently used by only 71 of our member libraries.

PrairieCat also provides all members who request it the coordination of the use of third-party products working with the ILS, including computer management software, RFID software, automated materials handling systems, self-checkout systems, lockers for hold pickup, and enhanced content for the online catalog, among others.

Overview of the Current ILS

The consortium adopted the name PrairieCat in June 2006. PrairieCat became an Illinois Intergovernmental Entity in December 2010. PrairieCat utilizes cloud hosting provided by Innovative for our ILS servers. The catalog lists more than one million titles of books, periodicals, cassettes, videos, CDs, DVDs, electronic resources and other library materials. The catalog shows which libraries own a given title and if the item is currently on the shelf. Through the catalog, patrons of fully participating libraries can manage their own accounts, place holds, track their reading history, and pay fines with a credit card.

Within the database, bibliographic records are shared among members with local holdings represented via attached order and item records. Centralized cataloging is performed by PrairieCat cataloging staff and cataloging staff at specific member libraries as cataloging partners, with OCLC as the primary sources for bibliographic records. Maintaining the integrity of this database structure, including how the results display to the public, is of utmost importance to PrairieCat. In 2026, PrairieCat began leveraging Mitinet/BestMARC as our bibliographic service for record cleanup and enhancement.

Several of our members utilize self-check units running Innovative's Express Lane software as well as third-party vendors Envisionware and Bibliotheca. We have a few sites using automatic materials handling (AMH) sorters, and a few sites have automated hold pickup lockers.

It is important to PrairieCat not to lose any existing functionality. Currently PrairieCat-member libraries make use of the following functional areas or products:

- Acquisitions including electronic ordering; multiple funds management and invoicing;
- Authority control and duplicate record control;
- Cataloging management of bibliographic and item records;
- Circulation and patron record management;
- Circulation notifications offered through email, phone, text/SMS and paper formats;
- E-Commerce using PayPal's PayFlow Link for online fine payment;
- Holds management functionality for both staff and patrons that includes the ability to set local hold priority;
- Inventory control;
- Self-check (currently we have 17 libraries utilizing Innovative's Express Lane software);
- Online catalog or discovery catalog. Currently, we leverage Vega Discover and would like to remain on that platform.
- Mobile catalog app
- Offline circulation;
- Online library card registration;
- Serials management including claiming

Instructions for Responding

Sections

This Request for Information consists of **six sections** (see below). Respondents are asked to complete all sections. For Section VI. Costs, respondents are asked to provide a breakdown of anticipated costs. This information will factor in our group's final decision.

I. General Information
II. ILS Functionality Assessment
III. Offsite Hosting/SAAS and System Administration
IV. Integration with Other Companies
V. Implementation Timeline and Known Constraints
VI. Costs

RFI Timeline

September 30, 2026	Respondents are asked to submit their responses electronically to carolyn.coulter@prairiecat.org

I. General Information

- ILS product name:
- Company name:

1. Please provide a brief description of your company including information about the following:

a. The majority and minority owners of your company
b. How many years have the company been in the ILS market
c. If there are any plans for a merger or acquisition
d. Any plans for the company coming up over the next five years: product development, new collaborations, sunsetting services, etc.
e. The commitment of the majority owners toward on-going support for this ILS over the next ten years
f. The number of public or multi-type library consortia customers between 2020 and 2026 broken down by year and the number of libraries in each consortia.
g. How your company stands apart from other ILS providers with regards to supporting public or multi-type library consortia focused on resource-sharing

2. Please describe your ILS product including information about the following:

a. The ILS components: client- and web-based tools included in the base package
b. The network and hardware requirements for optimal performance by the ILS
c. Your model for Software as a Service / cloud hosting
d. The underlying database structure or architecture
e. The database language and whether ILS administrators have direct database access
f. The number of client workstations running and database size at your largest site
g. The options available for database backup
h. The types of APIs that are available to integrate third-party applications
i. Included public-access services.
j. Data and network security practices
k. ADA compliance and available VPATs for all elements of the software
l. Capacity for unlimited simultaneous staff users

3. Please summarize information about your ILS product regarding the following:

a. The schedule for new releases and bug-fix releases of your ILS product
b. The software development cycle, including the process used to collect, evaluate and implement customer-suggested enhancements
c. The process for delivering and applying patches between major software releases
d. The methods for communication for customers to work with the company during business hours and off-hours

4. Please describe the process for on-boarding new customers and the types of training provided:

1. Describe the online training materials the company offers on the ILS product. How are the materials kept up to date?
2. Describe the type of staff training provided with implementation
3. Describe the type and extent of on-going training offered by your company. (e.g., number of hours, in-person or virtual, live or recorded)

II. ILS Functionality Assessment

5. Staff User Interface

	Yes – Part of the Current Base Software	No – Not Part of the Current Base Software	In Development	Requires Custom Development	Add-On Product
Customizable patron record display					
Accessible font, font size, and color in all functions					
Display cover art					
Functional hyperlinks in records					
Option to view multiple records side-by-side or in a tiled display					
Option to use multiple functions side-by-side or in a tiled display					
Option to use keyboard shortcuts for specific functions					
Option to program function keys with commands and literal text (i.e., macros)					
Add and adjust sounds for specific events					

6. Acquisitions and Serials

Please complete the checklist:

	Yes – Part of the Current Base Software	No – Not Part of the Current Base Software	In Development	Requires Custom Development	Add-On Product
Acquisitions					
Ability to create and manage multiple funds per library site, to support a library consortium with different accounting methods					
Ability to generate fund management reports and statistics for each member library					
Ability to perform fiscal close (end of year rollover)					
Ability to auto-generate and/or schedule reports and statistics on funds management and fiscal data					
Ability to create an organized fund structure, including funds hierarchies, for ease of use and statistical reporting					
Ability for order records to include all necessary fixed and variable fields for accurate order submission and processing					
Ability to generate, load, and submit order records manually and automatically with external vendors, including EDIFACT Ordering					
Ability to automatically queue purchase orders via vendor order loads					
Ability to generate reports and statistics for each member library's orders					
Ability to create order records for standing orders					
Ability to auto-generate and/or schedule reports and statistics on order records					
Ability to move, edit, and cancel individual orders					
Ability to move, edit, and cancel orders as a batch process					
Ability to generate multiple order records and bibliographic records using imported data					

Ability to access order record history, including users and dates for creation and changes					
Ability to manually add or remove an order from an FTP data load					
Ability to import invoices with outside vendors (EDIFACT invoicing)					
Ability to pay invoices via ILS system					
Ability to search for invoices through multiple data points					
Ability to create vendor profiles, including unique profiles for multiple vendor accounts using fixed and variable length fields					
Ability to search for vendors through multiple data points					
Ability to integrate with a third-party financial management software or system					
Ability to retrieve a record of adjustments to fund records					
Ability to allow multi-fund orders fund fixed field to be broken out by percentage or dollar amount					
Ability to allow multiple payments against a single order record in the same session for all order types					
Ability to export more than one order file per FTP session to the same vendor					
Ability to view fund balances while ordering without needing to post first					
Ability to import more than one invoice file per FTP session from the same vendor					
Electronic Resource Management (ERM)					
Ability to manage e-resources					
Ability to load e-resources order and vendor records similar to traditional resources					
Ability to verify URL for e-resources					
Ability to interface with and support authentication for digital materials					
Serials					
Ability to have distinct serials-specific serial records and item records, including bibliographic records, order records, check-in records, holding records					

Availability of a check-in or serial record that includes all necessary fixed & variable fields for accurate processing and reporting					
Ability to check in serials with volume and issue number					
Ability to automatically sort new item records created at serials check-in					
Availability of a check-in record card that is associated with each check-in record					
Ability to check in and track serials issues/subscriptions for multiple libraries with a library consortium					
Ability to support MARC or non-MARC serial holdings					
Ability to cleanly export serial holdings out of the system					
Ability to use and execute a claims function for serials, including ability to use in submission to external serials vendors					
Ability for granularity with serial permissions to accommodate consortium staff, including ability for each branch/library to limit visibility to local serials data					
Ability to make batch check-in record or serial item record changes					
Ability to set up automatic numbering of volumes and issues by title based on publication pattern					
Ability to efficiently identify and report late issues					
Ability for software to handle periodical 'supplements' and other non-standard publication sequences					
Ability to create serials-specific statistics and reports					
Ability to identify status of a volume/issue number as not received, missing, unavailable, etc.					
Ability for order records and associated check-in records to be directly linked					
Ability to view order record and check-in card of the same bib record simultaneously					
Ability to preview spine labels during check-in process					

Ability to automatically merge holdings when a missing issue is checked in					
Ability to generate reports and lists based on check-in box status, including ability to export reports					

7. Cataloging, Authority Control, and Records Management

Please complete the checklist:

	Yes – Part of the Current Base Software	No – Not Part of the Current Base Software	In Development	Requires Custom Development	Add-On Product
General record management for all types of records					
Ability to edit all types of records in batches					
Capability to export groups of records or single records					
Ability to add pre-determined text into all record types using keyboard shortcuts/macros					
Availability of duplicate record checking by specified field(s)					
Navigation options are clearly-labeled and accessible					
Availability of complete record modification and record deletion history/tracking for all record types					
Ability to control management of all types of records via staff user configuration					
Ability to duplicate, print, export, and delete all record types					
Bibliographic record management					
Ability to easily view record in public catalog display from the bibliographic record					
Easy access to MARC field definitions and options					
Ability to integrate new MARC fields					
Ability to bring in records either singly or in batches from a variety of third-party providers					
Ability to find and find/replace terms in a bibliographic record					
Ability to easily create, overlay, and modify bib records for all material formats					
Ability to easily select, insert, and correctly display diacritical marks, normalize to include diacritical marks in search results					
Availability of search aids, ex. Predictive search, “did you mean?” suggestions					
Advanced search capability across multiple indexes					
Ability to apply index selections that persist with successive searches					

Immediate indexing of completed records, even when multiple accounts are active concurrently					
Ability to customize indexing					
Ability to quickly check for duplicate ISBNs across bibliographic records					
Ability for non-cataloging staff to report possible bibliographic record problems					
Ability to suggest titles when searching if the original search returns no results					
Supports searching despite non-English articles that start titles (non-English skip digits)					
Supports searching for titles in a series					
Ability to see and manage/transfer holds while cataloging					
Ability to transfer holds from one level to another, bib-level to item, volume and vice-versa.					
Ability to limit search results by format, language, date, publisher, audience, and owning library					
Ability to identify bib records with no attached items or orders					
Accommodates z39.50 record searching and record loading from outside databases					
Ability to identify bib records with volumes with no attached items					
Ability to create bib records via API					
Ability to view record changes by staff login including a time stamp, functions performed, field edits, etc.					
Ability to spell check the contents of bibliographic records					
Authority control management					
Ability to maintain multiple authority thesauri without conflict					
Ability to batch-update controlled terms/fields					
Ability to identify duplicate, first time use, and/or invalid headings					
Ability to identify authority records not used in any bib records					
Item record management					
Ability to restrict users' item record editing permissions					
Ability to batch-edit item records on the same bib record and between bib records					
Ability to create temporary/on-the-fly records					

Separate permissions for temporary/on-the-fly record creation					
Ability to record volume information in serial records for retrieval of specific issue/volume					
Ability to transfer items and holds between bib records					
Ability to quickly identify errant data (mistakes, typos)					
Ability to manage and modify item record templates					
Ability to easily export lists of codes for controlled/fixed-length fields					
Ability for local administrators to control system codes (field names, location labels, etc.)					
Ability to easily create and edit spine labels from within the ILS					
Ability for libraries to easily create spine label templates					
Ability to print spine labels in batches					
Ability to preview spine labels before printing					
Ability to browse a location's call numbers versus call numbers for the entire consortium					
Automated alphabetical ordering of added items and orders					
Ability to limit to relevant, valid library-specific item record codes when adding new item records					
Ability to delete items from catalog immediately and have statistics accumulated for deleted items.					
Ability to view/modify patron record from within item record					

8. Circulation

Please complete the checklist:

	Yes – Part of the Current Base Software	No – Not Part of the Current Base Software	In Development	Requires Custom Development	Add-On Product
Patron Records					
Ability to batch update patron records					
Ability to batch load patron records from an external dataset					
Ability to batch delete patron records					
Ability to batch extend due date					
Ability to batch update hold pickup by date					
Simultaneous use of patron records					
Ability to batch update hold pickup location					
Ability to have multiple types of patron records					
Maximum number of unique patron types allowed					
Ability to add customized variable length fields to patron records					
Ability to view details of patron fines in check out, including past fines					
Ability to have fixed and variable patron record fields (place of residence field, last use date field, etc.)					
Ability to track the type and number of patron record uses					
New patron record templates by branch or patron type					
Availability of multiple ways to look up a patron record (name, address, e-mail address, birth date, phone)					
Ability to designate a patron's preferred vs. legal name					
Ability to add notes and messages to a patron record					
Patron barcode index accommodates student ID and username (alias) fields, or equivalent					
Ability to view last patron and circ history for previous 3-5 patrons on an item record					
Ability to copy patron records					
Duplicate record checks					
Holds/requests					
Availability of local hold priority where system fills local holds with local copies first					
Availability of bib-, volume, and item-level holds					
Ability for staff and patrons to place multiple holds at bib- and item-levels					
Ability to transfer holds to another item or bib record					

Ability for staff to place multiple volume holds on one bib record at once					
Ability to batch extend hold pick up dates by pickup location					
Ability to extend hold pick up dates case-by-case					
Hold shelf management tools (clear the hold shelf report, current list, pick up date, location)					
Ability to format paging lists by library					
Ability for staff to easily freeze/suspend patrons' holds & unfreeze/resume holds					
Ability to freeze/suspend or add a "do not fill before date" to a hold regardless of the status of items that could fill the hold					
Ability to block staff from placing holds on unholdable materials					
Ability to designate some materials as holdable for only local pickup by restricting the hold pickup location options presented to patrons					
Ability to limit paging lists to local holds only					
Ability to reprint paging slips for both bib-, volume, and item-level holds					
Ability to receive real-time alerts (by location) when holds on available items are placed					
Availability of customizable, printed slips that can be used as flags for routing materials					
Availability of customizable, printed slips for identifying materials on hold and ready for pickup					
Ability to see expired or canceled holds from the item record and from the patron record					
Ability to automatically manage expired holds					
Ability to remember last search when placing holds					
Check-ins					
Ability to designate a past date as a check-in date (backdate)					
Option to check in materials without triggering holds					
Ability to automatically waive fines at check-in for all items checked in					
Ability to "undo" a check-in					
Ability to add notes in item records at check-out					
Availability of special handling for materials returned with damage					
Availability of pop-up messages when checking in items requiring special handling					
Check-outs					
Ability to extend or modify due dates					
Ability to mark items lost in patron record					
Ability to mark items damaged from a patron record					
Ability to set "no receipt" at the patron level					

Availability of customizable date due slips: print, email, text, or none					
Ability to retain patron due slip preference					
Circulation parameter/loan rule management					
Ability for local administrators to set circulation parameters/loan rules that can vary by checkout location, item type/format, and patron group					
Single interface for circulation parameter/loan rule management					
Provide maximum number of lines in circ map allowed					
Provide maximum number of loan rules allowed					
Patron notifications					
Printed, email, phone, and text message delivery methods					
Availability of these notice types: overdue, courtesy, hold pickup, statement of charge, bill, hold cancellation					
Availability of notice delivery logs					
Ability to resend notices if there's a failure					
Ability to customize notices by library and add library branding (logos)					
Fines and fees					
Ability to collect money and waive charges					
Ability to maintain a credit balance on a patron account					
Ability to accept partial payments or for patrons to select which charges they want to pay					
Ability to assign predefined charges and add new ones to the system					
Ability to view estimated fines					
System retains patron fine payment history for a set length of time with specific information for all charge types					
Availability of fines management reports to review fines paid and waived charges and print or export as CSV					
Ability to globally purge fines by library or by file based on different criteria (such as charge type, date range, charge amount) and maintain audit trail.					
Ecommerce					
Ability to support e-commerce payment via credit or debit card					
Ability to report on e-commerce payments					
Standalone fine payment option independent of the catalog via API or other method					
Ability to integrate e-commerce payment with BiblioCommons products					
Online patron registration					
Availability of a customizable online self-registration form by library					

Availability of spam prevention measures in online self-registration form					
Availability of address verification in online self-registration form					
Ability to flag potential duplicate self-registrations					
Self-checkout/SIP2					
SIP2 integrated into the ILS package					
Offline Circulation					
Availability of an offline circulation option					
Availability of due slips for offline transactions					
Availability of offline circulation documentation, offline					
Inventory					
Inventory functionality separated out by library					
Availability of statistical reports and fields tied to inventory					
Ability to track in-library use of items					
Ability to update inventory date at check in by item location					
Interlibrary Loan					
Availability of an interlibrary loan function to track lending and borrowing with libraries outside the ILS consortium					
Miscellaneous					
Collection Agency functionality offered with consortia support, or integration with Collection Agency such as Unique Management					
Ability to retain detailed circulation transaction data for a set timeframe					
Ability to view record changes by staff login including a time stamp, functions performed, field edits, etc.					
Ability to set items in transit between locations and have an item status that indicates this					
Ability to designate an item as 'damaged', 'in repair', 'in bindery' (item statuses), construction, etc. and have certain designations not holdable.					
Ability to add notes and messages to item records					
Support for RFID tags on materials					

9. Reports and Statistics

1. **Please provide a brief description:**
   a. What is the ILS's report structure? Are reports integrated into the ILS, or available from a separate platform?
   b. Is direct database access available to local administrators or other local staff users?
2. **Please complete the checklist:**

	Yes – Part of the Current Base Software	No – Not Part of the Current Base Software	In Development	Requires Custom Development	Add-On Product
Availability of reporting on circulation transactions by library and consortia					
Availability of reporting on historical and current collections by library and consortia					
Availability of reporting on patron use by transaction type and library					
Availability of reports to help with collection management: weeding, collection development recommendations					
Availability of reports determining high- and low-use collections by library					
Availability of reporting on high-use items for possible condition-based weeding					
Availability of reports on popular authors					
Availability of item-tracking reports, ex. Missing items, items long in-transit, etc.					
Ability to edit records in reports without exiting from the report					
Ability to export reports in a variety of formats					
Ability to create custom queries					
Ability to limit access to reports/reporting tool(s) by user					
Ability to save, edit, and re-run custom reports					
Ability to schedule regularly run reports					
Availability of unlimited simultaneous reporting					
Availability of a report to track usage of locally-owned and non-locally-owned items					
Ability to export complete statistical data for use in external data analysis tools					
Ability to import item/patron records from an external list (preferably in plain text) for import into the reporting tool and/or editing tools.					

10. ILS Systems Administration & Authentication

1. **Please provide a brief description of the following functions or features:**
   a. The main features or organization of the administration module
   b. The level of access to the database available to consortium staff
2. **Please complete the checklist below:**

	Yes – Part of the Current Base Software	No – Not Part of the Current Base Software	In Development	Requires Custom Development	Add-On Product
Documentation and Training					
Availability of a current, comprehensive manual that covers all ILS functions					
Availability of in-person staff training					
Availability of a test server or sandbox					
System Administration					
A unified administrative interface					
Accommodates record and workflow set up for multiple library locations					
Allows customization of fixed and variable length fields in all types of records					
Allows for patron and item barcodes of varying lengths					
Support for standard barcode symbologies					
Ability to export the entire database to outside vendors via FTP or another method.					
System administration module offers both batch and individual assignment of staff permissions					
Ability to create and duplicate logins/staff user accounts					
Ability to temporarily disable staff accounts as well as remove accounts					
Automatic staff password management options					
Ability to set days closed by library					
Ability to set hours open by location					
Loading New Records					
Ability to import records in batches with custom data transformations					
Ability to create multiple options for importing records in batches					
Remote Authentication for E-Resources					

Availability of a remote patron authentication module					
Ability to control and restrict patron authentication for holds, payments, and account management					
Availability of usage statistics for remote authentication					
Availability of a patron API to facilitate remote access of e-resources					
Availability of an API or other programming to automatically create, modify, or delete database records					

11. Discovery Software/PAC

1. Please provide a brief description of the following functions or features:

	Response	Is the feature part of the base software or configuration	Is the feature In Development	Is the feature an Add-On or Optional
Does the system support searching and limiting by reading level, including lexile measure, accelerated reader, and publisher recommended age and grade? What metadata fields are required?				
How does the system handle search relevancy, including typos, misspellings, and stop words?				
In a consortia environment, how do patrons search for and request materials not owned by their home or preferred location?				
Please list all search facets and their definitions, i.e Availability, format, audience, subjects, etc				
What level of access would PrairieCat have to modify and customize facets?				
Does the system allow sorting by title while ignoring initial articles across multiple languages?				

How does the system handle search refinement and filters? Are applied filters persistent across searches?				
Does the system allow searching by author, call number, subject, series, and title?				
Is the call number and patron's preferred library prevalent in the search results?				
Is advanced search available? (i.e. searching using Boolean operators?)				
What options are available for highlighting new materials (facets, carousels, dynamic lists, etc.)?				
How is bibliographic/item information displayed? Can it be customized (e.g., short descriptions in search results)?				
Is the full MARC record available in the catalog?				
How does the system handle different formats of the same work? Does the system "roll up" formats?				
How does the system display cover images while ensuring key details (e.g., title, author, availability) remain easily visible? Can image size be adjusted to balance visual appeal with the amount of displayed information?				
What options are available for patrons to browse, engage with, and interact with staff-curated content (e.g., lists, carousels, recommended reads)				
Does the system provide a feature for suggesting similar items if a title is unavailable?				
What options exist for displaying electronic resources without overwhelming search results?				

What electronic materials (Overdrive Hoopla, etc.) can be integrated into the catalog? How does that work in a consortia environment?				
Can patrons create and manage multiple lists of saved titles?				
Are there printing, sharing, and exporting options for saved lists?				
Are item-specific details (location, call number, etc.) included in lists?				
Can patrons create and manage saved searches?				
Can patrons save reading history? Can they recover their reading history? What other features are associated with reading history?				
Can patrons set preferences for notifications (text, phone, email, print)?				
Does the system support patron self-registration for library cards?				
What authentication or confirmation measures are in place to verify patron eligibility? Does the system support online payment options for fines and fees? If so, does it integrate with ePay or allow for other payment vendors?				
Does the system allow individual libraries to customize branding while remaining within a consortia setup?				
Can staff create and manage and control the display, organization and curation of custom reading lists (e.g. staff picks, recommended reads etc.), and can patrons view and interact with these lists along with content such as carousels?				

Can the system manage placing holds directly from the search results page?				
Can patrons view their hold position in the queue?				
Does the system allow users to easily modify or cancel holds?				
Can patrons choose their pickup location each time they place a hold?				
Can patrons set a default pickup location other than registered branch?				
Does the system allow patrons to leave reviews and rate titles?				
Are there built-in integrations for displaying user-generated content (such as reviews from GoodReads)?				
Is the public interface mobile-friendly, providing full functionality on smartphones and tablets?				
Is the system “device aware,” meaning it automatically adjusts its display and features based on the user’s device (e.g., desktop, tablet, smartphone)?				
Can the mobile version support full searching, self-service, and account management?				
Can patrons change the primary language of the catalog? What languages are available?				
Is patron-facing documentation or a help site available?				
What accessibility features are built into the system (e.g., font size adjustments, screen reader compatibility, high contrast mode)?				

Are there options for voice navigation or digital library cards?				
Is the catalog in compliance with WCAG 2.1, Level AA, and is the company committed to providing products and services that meet accessibility standards?				
Is the vendor committed to maintaining the software and hosting to any upcoming DOJ standards?				
If DOJ or WCAG standards change, is there a cost for upgrading or enhancing the software to meet these changes?				
How is AI leveraged in the Discovery product, and what protection is available to protect patron information? Can patrons opt out of use of AI elements?				

III. Offsite Hosting/SAAS and System Administration

Please provide a brief description of the following functions or features:

a. **The main features or details of your offsite hosting/SAAS system, including hosting locations and redundancy in place.**
b. **The level of access to the database and hosting systems available to consortium staff**
c. **Security measures taken to protect consortium data**
d. **What system monitoring tools do you provide to the consortium administrators (i.e., monitoring for down sites, server load alerts or other system disruptions)?**
e. **Please provide a copy of your standard vendor confidentiality terms and conditions.**
f. **How are sensitive records stored and are third party vendors involved in this storage?**
g. **Does the vendor have familiarity with the Library Records Confidentiality Act and understand their obligations under the Act? How do you comply with the Act?**

IV. Integration with Other Companies, Products, and Services

Below is a list of the companies PrairieCat and/or individual libraries currently work with in concert with the Sierra ILS

1. **Please list by name the mobile app providers your ILS product integrates with as of 2026**

2. **Please briefly describe how your ILS product is equipped to handle AMH sorters leveraging barcodes and RFID tags**

3. **Please list if there are any limitations tied to outputting the database to an outside vendor. For example, can this only be done for bibliographic records or in a specific format?**

4. **Please complete the checklist below to indicate which companies your ILS is known to integrate with:**

Company, Product, or Service	Yes – The ILS can integrate with this service	No – The ILS cannot integrate with this service	The ILS can integrate with this service for an added cost
Bibliotheca: self-checks			
Bibliotheca: hold lockers			
Simota: hold lockers			
D-Tech: hold lockers			
EnvisionWare: self-checks, computer management software			
Bibliotecha: automated materials handling system			
RFID Library Solutions: automated materials handling system			

Centac: Self-checks			
Auto Graphics: statewide public-access catalog			
OCLC Connexion: cataloging utility			
OCLC World Record Management			
OCLC WorldShare			
Mitinet/BestMARC: bibliographic and authority control service			
Z39.50 protocol			
Amazon: materials vendor			
Ingram: materials vendor			
Libraria: materials vendor			
Midwest Tape: materials vendor			
OverDrive: e-books, etc.			
Kanopy: electronic media			
Hoopla: electronic media			
Palace Project: e-books, etc.			
EBSCO Information Services: research databases			
EBSCO Novelist Select and Novelist Plus			
Syndetics: cover images, enhanced catalog content			
Transparent Languages Online: language-learning platform			
LinkedIn Learning: continuing education platform			
BiblioApps from BiblioCommons: app-based discovery service			
BiblioCore from BiblioCommons: web-based discovery service			
PayPal: Ecommerce payment gateway			
Communico: SMS and phone notifications			
illion Digital Tech Solutions (DTS) /iTiva: phone notifications			
SAM: public computer use management			
Unique Management Services: collection agency reporting and other services			
OrangeBoy, LibraryHQ, and other data analysis software vendors			
MagnaPOS from Swyer Assoc (POS systems)			
CenTec My-Promo custom receipts			
Group News Access/Chicago Tribune			

IV. Implementation Timeline and Known Constraints

1. **Please list the components that make up a typical migration and implementation timeline as it applies to a consortium.**

2. **Are there any upcoming staffing / work constraints, or known issues with the company or software that our site should be aware of?**

VI. Costs

1. **Please supply a breakdown of costs by service and list the options for multi-year contracts or subscriptions.**

2. **Please supply a list of costs tied to the initial and on-going staff training.**

3. **Describe the invoicing process for new products and when maintenance of those products begins.**

4. **Explain how maintenance increases are applied and what typical annual increase we can expect without multi-year contracts.**

Appendix A – Member Libraries & FY25 Stats

PrairieCat is comprised of 136 independently governed member libraries operating from 177 library locations. Thirty-three of our member libraries are "union listing" libraries, meaning they do not circulate on our system but enter their holding information into the database in order that they can place holds for their patrons. Their patron information is not included in our database.

Total Number of Bibliographic Records: 1,211,136

In-Building Circulation: Circulation of items from this library location regardless of ownership. Checkouts and renewals are considered part of in-building circulation.

Library	FY25 In-Building Circulation (includes renewals)	Number of Patrons FY25
Alleman High School - ALLG-1	41	3
Andalusia Township Library - ANDG-1	5,129	402
Annawan-Alba Township Library - AAPG-2	2,560	4
Bertolet Memorial Library District - BMLY-14	7,605	280
Bourbonnais Public Library District - BDBB-2	84,597	7932
Boylan Central Catholic High School - BCCY-11	1,140	3
Bradley Public Library District - BRBB-2	48,326	3493
Bureau Valley Jr/Sr High School - BVHG-2	1,135	63
Bureau Valley North Elem School - BNJG-2	0	3
Bureau Valley Wyanet Elementary School - BSJG-2	2	3
Byron CUSD 226 - Byron High School - BRLY-14	222	0
Byron CUSD 226 - Byron Middle School - BR2Y-14	4	3
Byron CUSD 226 - Mary Morgan Elem School - BR3Y-14	3	3
Byron Public Library District - BYLY-14	87,606	3258
Charles B. Phillips Public Library District - CPBB-3	11,082	701
Chdwk/Milldgvill CUSD 399 - Milledgeville HS - MWLY-14	33	3
Cherry Valley PLD Drive Up - CHVY-13	873	0
Cherry Valley Public Library District- CHVY-13	112,588	5068
Clinton Township Public Library - CTPY-12	9,357	496
Coal City Public Library District - CCBB-2	83,164	4599
Colona District Public Library - CLNG-2	19,666	2113
Cordova District Library - CORG-1	10,534	398
Cortland Community Library - COLY-12	31,524	0
Creston-Dement Public Library District - CRDY-12	6,022	283

CUSD 2 - Harding Grade School - HGBB-3	2,933	**137**
CUSD 2 - Serena High School - SHBB-3	2,627	**371**
CUSD 2 - Sheridan Grade School - SSBB-3	3,843	**152**
DeKalb Public Library - DKLY-12	185,298	**15832**
Earlville Public Library District - EAPY-12	10,930	**560**
East Dubuque District Library - EDLY-13	16,625	**900**
East Moline Public Library - EMPG-1	49,149	**5952**
Eastland CUSD 308 - Elem. School - LA2Y-14	501	**3**
Eastland CUSD 308 - JR/SR High School - EHSY-14	91	**3**
Elizabeth Township Public Library - ELLY-13	2,857	**367**
Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library - EJMY-11	91,829	**9189**
Erie Public Library District - ERIG-1	8,814	**717**
Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District - FRPY-12	25,758	**3486**
Forreston Public Library - FOLY-14	4,687	**3**
Fossil Ridge Public Library District - FRBB-2	40,342	**3914**
Franklin Grove Public Library - FGLY-12	7,047	**349**
Freeport Public Library - FPLY-13	102,258	**5364**
Galena Public Library District - GALY-13	33,988	**1417**
Galena SD 120 - Elem & Middle School - GL3Y-13	26	**2**
Galena SD 120 - High School LRC - GLLY-13	778	**3**
Geneseo Public Library District - GPLG-2	49,867	**3814**
Genoa Public Library District - GELY-12	17,716	**1334**
Genoa-Kingston CUSD 424 - High School - GKLY-12	113	**3**
Grant Park Public Library - GPBB-2	3,095	**248**
Graves-Hume Public Library District - GVHY-12	25,219	**1915**
Hampton School District 29 - HAMG-1	6,543	**332**
Hanover Township Library - HNLY-13	2,866	**219**
Harvard Diggins Library - HRLY-11	25,654	**2537**
Henry C Adams Memorial Library - HCAG-1	8,315	**621**
Hiawatha CUSD 426 - High School - HHSY-12	98	**3**
Highland Community College - HCCY-13	3,642	**649**
Hinckley Public Library District - HKLY-12	16,175	**837**
Homer Township Bookmobile - HBBB-1	10,518	**3**
Homer Township Public Library - Main - HDBB-1	138,508	**18740**
Ida Public Library - IPLY-12	70,702	**8957**
Ida Public Library Bookmobile - IPBY-12	3,403	**1**
Johnsburg Public Library District - JOLY-11	50,772	**3426**
Joliet Township High SD 204 - Central Campus - JCHB-1	7,426	**3252**

Joliet Township High SD 204 - West Campus - JWHB-1	5,618	**4490**
Julia Hull District Library - JHLY-14	25,509	**1726**
Kankakee Public Library - KKBB-2	45,466	**4646**
Kirkland Public Library - KILY-12	591	**3**
Lanark Public Library - LNLY-14	1	**4**
LaSalle Public Library - LSBB-3	21,640	**1839**
Lena Community District Library - LELY-13	17,271	**772**
Limestone Township Library District - LIBB-2	15,295	**1502**
Lostant Community Library - LCBB-3	1,239	**107**
Malta Township Public Library - MLLY-12	5,219	**391**
Manhattan-Elwood Public Library - Elwood - ELBB-2	5,046	**156**
Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District - MTBB-2	84,763	**7599**
Manteno Public Library District - MNBB-2	46,504	**3613**
Maple Park Public Library District - MPLY-12	3,670	**450**
Marengo-Union Library District - MRLY-11	45,210	**4066**
Marseilles Public Library - MABB-3	14,662	**679**
Mazon-Verona-Kinsman SD 2C - Elem School - MVEB-4	193	**3**
Mazon-Verona-Kinsman SD 2C - Middle School - MVMB-4	63	**3**
Meridian CUSD 223 - Highland Elem School - SP4Y-14	13,017	**399**
Meridian CUSD 223 - Meridian Junior High School - SPLY-14	6,671	**443**
Meridian CUSD 223 - Monroe Ctr Elem School - SP3Y-14	12,809	**380**
Meridian CUSD 223 - Stillman Valley High School - SP2Y-14	2,146	**413**
Mills & Petrie Memorial Library - MPMY-12	4,992	**152**
Mineral-Gold Public Library District - MGPG-2	215	**3**
Mokena Community Public Library District - MKBB-1	91,571	**7757**
Mokena CPL Lockers - MKBB-1	2,549	**0**
Moline Public Library - MPLG-1	220,677	**15303**
Moline SD 40 - High School - MHSG-1	610	**3**
Moore Memorial Library District - MMLG-1	55	**4**
Morris Area Public Library District - MRBB-3	68,679	**5603**
Mount Carroll District Library - MCLY-14	7,520	**951**

Mount Morris Public Library - MMLY-14	8,856	**748**
New Lenox Public Library District - NLBB-1	192,307	**13708**
Nippersink Public Library District - NPLY-11	41,807	**3254**
North Chicago Bookmobile - NCK	23	**0**
North Chicago Public Library - NCK	10,451	**3887**
North Suburban Loves Park - NSLY-11	202,046	**11966**
North Suburban Roscoe - NSRY-11	110,556	**7038**
Odell Public Library - MORG-1	23,752	**1481**
Oglesby Public Library District - OGBB-3	12,229	**1048**
Oregon Public Library District - ORLY-14	24,692	**1804**
Pankhurst Memorial Library - PMLY-12	904	**3**
Pearl City CUSD 200 - PLLY-13	118	**3**
Pearl City Public Library District - PCLY-13	5,416	**370**
Pecatonica CUSD 321 - High School - PALY-13	601	**3**
Pecatonica Public Library District - PTLY-13	21,962	**1312**
Peotone Public Library District - PEBB-2	42,778	**3626**
Peru Public Library - PUGG-2	56,191	**2701**
Plano Community Library District - PDBB-4	65,160	**4575**
Plano CUSD 88 - Centennial Elem School - PCEB-3	11,948	**391**
Plano CUSD 88 - Emily G. Johns School - PEJB-3	9,547	**617**
Plano CUSD 88 - High School - PHSB-3	505	**751**
Plano CUSD 88 - Middle School - PMSB-3	2,669	**433**
Plano CUSD 88 - P.H. Miller School - PHMB-3	6,141	**584**
PLT CUD#3 - Prophetstown 6-12 Campus - PHSG-1	4,342	**469**
PLT CUD#3 - Prophetstown Elem School - PESG-1	4,284	**212**
PLT CUD#3 - Tampico Elem School - TAEG-1	6,800	**213**
Polo CUSD 222 - Aplington Middle School - PO3Y-14	666	**2**
Polo CUSD 222 - Centennial Elem School - PO2Y-14	5	**2**
Polo CUSD 222 - Polo Community High School - PSLY-14	6	**3**
Polo Public Library District - POLY-14	10,451	**1186**
Princeton Public Library - PRGG-2	49,045	**2212**
Princeton Township HS SD 500 - PTWG-2	2,634	**457**
Putnam County Public Library - Condit - PTGG-2	1,048	**123**
Putnam County Public Library - Granville - GRGG-2	19,941	**572**
Putnam County Public Library - Headquarters - PCGG-2	5,141	**342**

Putnam County Public Library - Magnolia - MGGG-2	890	108
Putnam County Public Library - McNabb - MCGG-2	1,436	122
Putnam County Public Library - Standard - SDGG-2	388	48
Putnam County SD 535 - Elementary School - PCEG-2	0	163
Putnam County SD 535 - High School - PCHG-2	1,082	303
Putnam County SD 535 - Jr High School - PCJG-2	3,488	210
Putnam County SD 535 - Primary School - PCPG-2	4,627	182
RAILS (Bolingbrook Service Center) - SWSB-4	203	17
RAILS (Coal Valley) - CVSG-9	49	9664
Raymond A Sapp Memorial Township Library - RAYG-2	563	3
Reddick Public Library District - RLBB-3	115,216	6257
Remote Web Users	35,473	0
Richard A Mautino Memorial Library - RAMG-2	9,406	1210
River Bend CUSD 2 - Fulton Elem School - FESG-1	3	3
River Bend CUSD 2 - Fulton High School - FHSG-1	198	3
River Bend CUSD 2 - Fulton Middle School - FMSG-1	4	3
River Ridge CUSD 210 - RRHY-13	294	3
River Valley District Library - RVLG-1	32,273	1581
Robert R Jones Public Library District - CVPG-1	27,581	2357
Robert W. Rowe Public Library District - ROBB-3	9,242	743
Rochelle SD 212 - Rochelle Twp High School - RSLY-12	497	3
Rock Island Main Library - RIPG-1	70,725	12936
Rock Island Mobile Library - RITG-1	1,548	0
Rock Island SD 41 - High School - RHSG-1	299	3
Rock Island Southwest Branch Library - RISG-2	16,703	1
Rock Island Watts-Midtown Branch - RIZG-1	22,349	3
Rockford University - RKC-ILDS	1,572	882
Rockridge SD 300 - High School - ROCG-1	43	3
Sandwich Public Library District - SABB-4	30,485	2342
Scales Mound CUSD 211 - SMLY-13	249	3
Schmaling Memorial Public Library District - FULG-1	19,843	859
Seneca Public Library District - SEBB-3	21,202	1479
Sheffield Public Library - SHFG-2	1,526	3
Sherrard Public Library District - SHDG-2	18,450	1407

Silvis Public Library - SVPG-1	21,949	**2948**
Somonauk Public Library District - SNBB-4	32,607	**2887**
South Beloit Public Library - SBLY-11	15,463	**1276**
Stockton Township Public Library - SKLY-13	7,086	**523**
Streator Public Library - SRBB-3	25,754	**2542**
Sycamore Public Library - SYLY-12	134,734	**6842**
Talcott Free Library District - TFLY-11	49,805	**3368**
Telephone Renewal Users	10,032	**0**
Three Rivers Public Library - Channahon - TRBB-2	68,588	**5354**
Three Rivers Public Library - Minooka - TMBB-2	41,958	**3552**
United Township High School SD 30 - UTSG-1	11,143	**2428**
Walnut Public Library District - WALG-2	9,946	**584**
Warren CUSD 205 - Jr/Sr High School - WALY-13	185	**3**
Warren Township Public Library - WRLY-13	6,396	**397**
Western District Public Library - WDLG-2	15,892	**1333**
Wilmington Public Library District - WLBB-2	48,864	**3180**
Winnebago High School - WQLY-13	587	**3**
Winnebago Public Library District - WPLY-13	25,747	**1900**
Woodstock Public Library - WOLY-11	157,247	**13180**
York Township Public Library - YTLY-14	1,265	**3**
Yorkville Public Library - YKBB-4	92,030	**8604**
TOTALS	4532630	**361581**

Thank you for your participation