Why Are We Doing This - Process

- Looking for the next version of the statewide catalog - reQuest
- Issued RFI – Responses from traditional and open source vendors
- Conversation with Marshall Breeding
- Desire for enhanced functionality
Why Are We Doing this – from Patron POV?

- Seamless statewide system
  - Find books in own library – in every library
  - View circulation status of items in own library – in every library
  - Same look and feel – common interface
  - Same process to locate items
  - Same process to order items - patron placed holds
  - One account with all of their checkouts, holds, etc.

CT State Library
January 2009
Why Are We Doing this – from Patron POV?

- Easy to use interface – at all libraries - equity
- Library 2.0 features – at all libraries
  - RSS- book lists
  - Enriched catalogs – user participation
    - Tagging
    - Reviews
    - Ratings
- Satisfy web savvy users – next generation users
Why Are We Doing this – from Patron POV?

- Statewide catalog that includes
  - Up-to-date holdings
  - Efficient search (reasonable search return time)
Why Are We Doing This – from a Library POV?

- Cost less / cost sharing
- Save staff time, particularly in ILL
- Share technical development costs – esp. important if open source
- Sharing technical expertise
Why Are We Doing This – from a Library POV?

- Equity of access to higher quality ILS for all libraries
- Reduction of duplication
- Standardization of workflow / procedures in all libraries
- Access to patron records from other libraries
Beyond ILS - Possibilities

- Integrated content from multiple sources – no separate pathways to get at different types of content
  - Catalog, databases, digital content
- Customizable to each user
- Full-text searching
- Same search/fulfillment process for digital and print
Consider Open Source?

- **Pro**
  - Flexibility
  - User Interface – ability to respond to usability testing
  - Not tied to development priorities of vendor
  - No issues of vendor mergers, buy outs

- **Challenges**
  - Technical expertise/support needed
  - Funding to develop functionality
Survey

- Costs (from survey)
  - Standalone libraries (24) – Average of $9,870/yr
  - Libraries in Networks (3): - Average $20,704/yr
  - reQuest: $716,871 (includes $79,000 revenue from libraries)
What Has Happened

- Met with network staff, libraries with standalone systems both large and small (early summer)
- Formation of Task Force (late summer 2008)
  - Representatives from network consortia (staff and libraries), standalones, community colleges, UConn, CLC, and will be adding schools
- Continue to research possibilities
  - Nora Blake, Mass Cat, attended last meeting – they moved from a union catalog to Koha ILS
- Requested $2.5 million as capital request
Thank You

- Keeping Up-to-Date
  - Follow the developments on WebJunction including the working vision statement at:

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