

NICE TEAM MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2023

Meeting began at 8:30 a.m.

Team Members Present: J. Johnson (NWLS), G. Rae (NWLS), K. Zimmermann (WVLS), R. Metzler (WVLS), M. McLimans (WiLS), M. Clark (WiLS), S. Heskin (Superior), M. Lank-Jones (Hayward), A. Johnson (MCPL), P. O'Connell (Minocqua), T. Blomberg (Rib Lake), T. Schmidt (Mercer)

Others Present: S. Hafemeister (WVLS)

I. Update on Survey

Melissa McLimans shared that the survey was open as of January 16, 2023. There are 21 responses as of this morning. She will be checking that there is a wide representation from those doing the survey.

II. ILS Merger Successes Document

An updated Successful ILS Mergers document was shared by Melody Clark. It is a working document as she is still receiving information to update it. It provides information regarding the ILS mergers between ALS/LLS (SHARE), OWLS/NFLS (Infosoup) and within the RAILS Consortia in Illinois. Committee members may send requests for additional information or changes to the document to Melody. The report will be shared on the NICE project website when it is complete.

III. Focus Groups

Melissa and Melody presented a document with information about Focus Groups. WiLS plans to host four focus groups, three for member libraries, and one for library system staff. The WiLS team will make sure that there is a diverse mix of members in each focus group. The group discussed the importance of participation from a broad mix of libraries. Melissa will check with Kim Kiesewetter (WiLS) if she has a recommendation on whether the focus groups would be recorded. If they are not recorded, a transcript will be available with detailed notes taken from each focus group. The group discussed the goals of the focus groups and potential questions for focus group participants.

The survey and focus group(s) are being designed to help us compile the Phase I project of information gathering and documentation into a single report that identifies challenges and benefits of different possible ILS consortia options for V-Cat and NWLN. This is essentially a feasibility report that stakeholders can use to decide next steps.

With these items in mind, the focus group should focus on broad, qualitative questions that address information not covered in the survey related to:

1. barriers and benefits to the idea of working towards a shared ILS or a shared ILS consortia, or something in between,
2. the identification of conditions that make a merged ILS/ILS consortia desirable,
3. identifying ways to overcome identified challenges and
4. better understanding what cultural and communication groundwork needs to be laid.

Potential questions were discussed. NICE Team members are welcome to suggest additional questions or share comments with WiLS by January 31, 2023.

IV. Standing Item – Reporting of Questions/Status of Replies

No new questions have been submitted via the online form, and none of the team members had any additional questions to share. There is one outstanding question regarding Who makes the final decision for the ILS Merger. Marla Sepnafski (WVLS) and Sherry Machones (NWLS) will be meeting soon to discuss this and assist with an answer for the FAQ page of the NICE project website.

V. Standing Item – Communication Needs

Melissa McLimans asked if there were any communication needs. No new needs were expressed.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be February 21, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting ended at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Hafemeister, Meeting Recorder